



Tee to Green

PUBLISHED BY THE METROPOLITAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT ASSOCIATION

President's Message

Don't Worry, Be Happy

Have you ever heard the expression, "God grows grass for 10 months out of the year, but you must grow it in July and August"? I think you'll agree with me that there is a certain amount of truth in that statement and that, at times, our job is a pretty difficult one.

As golf course superintendents, we usually experience our highest level of stress during those two summer months. This year, however, it's possible that your level of stress throughout this unprecedented rainy spring season has already been unusually high due to that one uncontrollable factor that can make our jobs easy or, in some instances, nearly impossible: the weather.

During these difficult times, it's important to be mindful of the effects of too much stress on your health. One way to reduce stress in the midst of adversity is to keep a positive mental attitude and try not to worry about things over which you have no control, like the weather.

When the going gets rough, we also need to take some time off to recharge our batteries. It's a good idea to dedicate at least one day a week to rest and relaxation so you can be fresh for the rigors of this very demanding profession and a more valuable asset to your club and family.

Dale Carnegie once said, "Obviously, circumstances alone do not make us happy or unhappy. It is the way we react to circumstances that determines our feeling. The Kingdom of Heaven is within you, but that is where the Kingdom of Hell is too." In other words, when uncontrollable factors are trying to make life miserable for you this summer, remember, "Don't worry, be happy."

SCOTT E. NIVEN, CGCS
President

Special Feature

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO KEEPING YOUR TREES ALIVE AND WELL

Alpine Arborist Vic Cedrone offers helpful tricks of the trade

Have you ever stopped to think how your golf course would look if all the mature trees were gone—even 50 percent of them? Not a pretty picture, is it?

Though it's unlikely you'd lose all your trees at once, sometimes just as bad is losing one or two key trees that add character to a golf hole or to a particular area of the course. Fortunately, these kinds of disasters could be minimized, if not prevented, with a sound tree maintenance program. Here are a few pointers on keeping new plantings and mature trees alive and well.

Do's and Don'ts Prior to Planting

The last thing you want to do is pay a lot of money for a new tree and then have it die—or just as bad—find out it's wrong for the spot you had in mind. Before selecting a tree for an area, it's important to do a thorough site evaluation. Here are a few questions to consider:

■ *What is the soil PH?* It's always wise to take a soil sample to determine if the tree you have in mind will thrive in that particular soil environment. If the soil isn't well suited for a particular species, you have two options: Change the soil PH or your tree choice.

■ *Is the area particularly dry—or prone to flooding?* Many species will survive in one type of area or the other, but not both. For instance, you wouldn't want to plant a white pine in a wet area or a

red maple in a dry area. (See box, page 7, for planting suggestions.)

■ *Does the tree have an objectionable fruit?* You probably wouldn't want to plant crabapple trees near a clubhouse walkway or drive, for instance. The juices from falling fruit can stain rugs, floors, and clothing. Gum trees can also be meddlesome, particularly when planted near high-traffic areas. You'd need an attentive cleanup crew to keep the area free from falling fruit.

■ *Do you have a water source nearby?* You're better off if you don't have to haul water to your new plantings. During droughts, trees near a water source are more apt to receive adequate water. Those not accessible to water generally

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Research Donations Approved

At the May 17 Board of Directors meeting, the board approved the S & R Committee's recommendations for 1989 research donations. We will be distributing a grand total of \$7,000 among these three worthy research projects:

- *Hyperodes Degree Day Study* by Dr. Patricia Vittum of the University of Massachusetts. MetGCSA donation: \$1,500.
- *Summer Patch Disease Study* by Dr. Peter Landschoot and Dr. Bruce Clarke of Rutgers University. MetGCSA donation: \$2,500.
- *White Grub Research* by Dr. Michael Villani of Cornell University. MetGCSA donation: \$3,000. But thanks to Cornell's matching funds program, the university will match our donation, giving Dr. Villani a total of \$6,000 toward his grub research.

We plan to invest the remaining balance of \$1,500 in our S & R Fund with Shearson Lehman so that our dollars will grow for future funding.

The MetGCSA takes pride in providing its neighboring research institutions with such worthwhile funding. Together, we hope to achieve the solutions necessary to resolve many of the turf-related problems in the Metropolitan area, as well as the Northeast.

LARRY PAKKALA, CGCS
Chairman, S & R Committee

Upcoming Events

MONTHLY MEETING REMINDER

Bonnie Briar Country Club, July 11

TWO METGCSA EVENTS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS

- *Picnic, July 24 at Woodway Beach Club, Stamford, CT*

DETAILS: 3 p.m. is when the family fun begins. Activities include family olympics for people of all ages and skill levels; a father/child bake-off, in which prizes will be awarded to cake bakers with the most irresistible concoctions; and a cake auction, with bake-off entries going to the highest bidders. Prizes for everyone!

- *Summer Social: "Manhattan Skyline Dinner Cruise," August 22*

DETAILS: As a cruise ship rides the waves from New Rochelle Harbor to the Statue of Liberty, you'll enjoy dinner, dancing, and spectacular views of Manhattan by day—and then by night. Among the sights: the Brooklyn Bridge, Midtown, and the South Street Seaport. Guests are welcome—but space is limited. So if

you don't want to miss the boat, be sure to sign up early!

FIELD DAYS TO REMEMBER

- *Rhode Island Turfgrass Field Day*

DATE: August 30, 1989

PLACE: Turfgrass Research Farm, Plains Road, Kingston, RI

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL: Dr. C.R. Skogley, Plant Sciences Department, Woodward Hall, Kingston, RI 02881

- *25th Annual Turfgrass Equipment, Irrigation and Supplies Field Day*

DATE: October 3, 1989

RAIN DATE: October 4

PLACE: Rutgers Stadium and Golf Course, Piscataway, NJ

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL: Judy Policastro, 201-379-1100

- *NYSTA Turf and Grounds Exposition*

DATE: November 7-10, 1989

PLACE: Rochester Riverside Convention Center, Rochester, NY

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL: 800-873-8873



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Cultivating a Healthy Relationship With Your Golfing Membership

Winged Foot's green chairman, Jack Lynch, offers sage advice for golf course superintendents

Some things in life are basically incompatible. Take, for instance, oil and water. No matter how hard you shake a mixture of the two, it separates—within seconds.

A similar situation exists between golf course maintenance and the golfing community. On the one hand, you have a group dedicated to producing the most attractive, elegant, well-manicured gardens in the universe. On the other hand, you have legions of golfers, equipped with a bag full of sticks and motorized vehicles, whose main objective—it appears—is to dig holes in the ground. (What makes this really crazy is that we continue this cycle of play and repair for almost nine months a year.)

Incompatible? Of course. But fortunately, there are ways to encourage opposites to attract, if only for a little while. Keep these three points in mind and you can't help but build a harmonious relationship between you and your golfing membership.

1. Every member is an agronomist. It doesn't matter that many of your vocal critics have lived in an apartment house most of their lives or that the only flowers they've cared for are plastic. Every golfing member wants the best, and somehow believes he or she knows how to produce it.

What you have to do is learn how to respect that "member love," and as frustrating as it may be at times, listen carefully to what members have to say. After all, "a good idea never cared who invented it," and some very good ideas often come from members.

2. Every member has a right to know. This is especially true at private courses. In my experience, much of the antagonism that's developed between golfers and maintenance departments can be attributed to poor communication. Whenever members are informed of what is going on and why it's being done that way, there are noticeably fewer objections.

Obviously, the "communication network" begins with the superintendent, who has the technical know-how and expertise. Nevertheless, it's

the chairman of the Green Committee who should communicate directly to the Board of Directors or the membership at large.

Because it is virtually impossible to communicate to every member individually, I believe the Green Committee is the second most important element in the communication network. The committee should be comprised of members from every conceivable power base within a given club. There's no better way to get the backing of the membership than to have a network of insiders all moving in the same direction.

But what really makes it "happen" is getting the Green Committee involved in the entire process: setting priorities, monitoring progress, and above all, taking the pulse of the membership. Personally, I believe that a Green Committee made up of a group of friends is destined for failure. It should include members with differing points of view. After all, getting critics involved can be part of the solution.

3. Your eyes are bigger than your belly. I don't know who is responsible for this particular proverb, but it applies to the superintendent's world

as well as to children's appetites.


What I'm trying to say is that once priorities have been established, don't be tempted to initiate more projects than you and your crew can neatly handle. Nothing frustrates members more than the appearance of chaos. My recommendation: *Start and finish one major project at a time—even if you're capable of handling more.*

Think of it from the members' perspective. Most of them visit the course an average of twice a week, often with a guest. They want to be greeted by a finished product once in a while, one they can brag about. Nothing is more embarrassing than continually having to apologize for a golf course under construction.

Get in, get out, and take up the next project as far away from the present one as possible.

JACK LYNCH
Green chairman
Winged Foot Golf Club

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Spotlight

Harry Nichol Hosts Invitational Tournament

The 1989 MetGCSA Invitational Tournament was held at Burning Tree Country Club in Greenwich, CT. The host: Harry Nichol, the club's superintendent for seven years.

Born and raised on Western Pennsylvania farmland, Harry has always known the pleasures of working the soil. He spent many years farming with his father before deciding to pursue a career in golf course management—a profession he felt would provide both him and his family with a better lifestyle.

Harry received a B.S. in Agronomy from Penn. State, and took his first superintendent's position at Indian Valley Country Club outside Philadelphia. From there he moved to the Metropolitan area, where he worked at Elmwood Country Club in White Plains, NY, and then the Country Club of Darien before coming to Burning Tree.

One of Harry's most challenging projects at Burning Tree has been to improve the drainage on the course—a project that has contributed to better conditions and playability at the club. But after 24 years as superintendent, Harry still ranks working with the environment as one of the most challenging—and enjoyable—aspects of the job.

Harry and his wife, Pat, live in Redding, CT. Pat owns and operates a job placement service in Westport, CT, which keeps her just as busy as Harry. Harry and Pat have three grown children: Tim, Ken, and Laurie. Tim lives in nearby Monroe, CT; Ken is a junior at Western Connecticut State College; and Laurie is a registered nurse in California.

In his spare time, Harry enjoys reading and watching a good movie.

BERT DICKINSON

Westchester Country Club

Notable Notes

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

Charlie Siemers has joined Hawthorne Brothers Tree Service as a sales representative. Before joining Hawthorne Brothers, Charlie spent the last 10 years working in golf course field and management positions. Most recently, he was assistant superintendent at Brae Burn Country Club in Purchase, NY.

LOOK WHO'S IN THE NEWS

- Joe Camberato, superintendent at Sleepy Hollow Country Club in Scarborough, NY, was interviewed by ABC TV News Tuesday, June 13, on the effect wet conditions can have on a golf course.
- Ted Horton, director of sports and grounds at Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY, was a guest on WFAN's all-sports channel on Saturday, June 10.
- Patty Knaggs, superintendent at

Westchester Country Club, was quoted in *The Reporter Dispatch*, a Westchester County Gannett paper, where she described the challenges of running the Westchester Classics in unusually wet conditions.

FAMILY HONORS

Congratulations to Superintendent Bob Bruce and his son, Robert Bruce Jr., who recently won first place in the fourth annual Martin Luther King Jr. Arts and Science Competition.

A talented musician and tenor and a freshman at North Salem High School, Robert has won the competition for three consecutive years. This year, he was recognized for putting song lyrics written by his older sister, Cheryl Bruce Jones, to music. The title of the award-winning song: "We're Living the Dream."

Bob Bruce is superintendent at Salem Golf Club in North Salem, NY.



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SUMMER RULES, WINTER RULES: WHAT ARE THEY, ANYWAY?

Summer rules, put simply, are the rules of golf—too extensive, as you know, to list here.

Winter rules or preferred lies, as they're commonly known, are basically "exceptions to the rules" that golf courses allow during adverse weather conditions: heavy rainfall, spring thaw, extreme heat, and anything else that makes fairways unsatisfactory for play.

There's no established code for winter rules. Basically, it's up to each course to spell them out for their membership. But before you or your club put winter rules into practice, here are a few things to consider:

1. They conflict with the rules of golf and the fundamental principle of playing the ball as it lies.

2. They're sometimes adopted under the guise of protecting the course, when, in fact, they have the opposite

effect: Winter rules permit golfers to move the ball to the best turf, subjecting those areas to wear and tear and further damaging the course.

3. They tend to lower scores and handicaps, which, in effect, penalizes players in competition—particularly those whose scores for handicap were made under summer rules, the rules of golf.

4. Indiscriminate use of winter rules will place players at a disadvantage when competing at a course where the ball must be played as it lies.

5. The USGA does not endorse winter rules. They strongly recommend that the rules of golf be observed uniformly.

FINAL NOTE: Having read these five points, you may find it worthwhile to educate your membership about the winter rules vs. summer rules controversy.

EARL MILLETT
Ridgeway Country Club

Special Announcement

Be on the Lookout for Your New—and Definitely Improved—Membership Directory

First the bad news: A number of errors have turned up in this year's Membership Directory due to problems with typesetting. Now the good news: The printer has agreed to reprint the directory at no charge to the association.

Please disregard the original mailing when you receive the updated directory. We apologize to anyone who has been affected.

TIMOTHY O'NEILL, CGCS
Secretary

Quote Unquote

"Man blames fate for other accidents but feels personally responsible when he makes a hole-in-one."

HORIZONS



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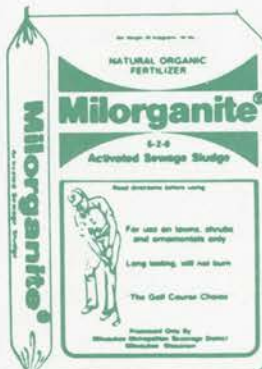
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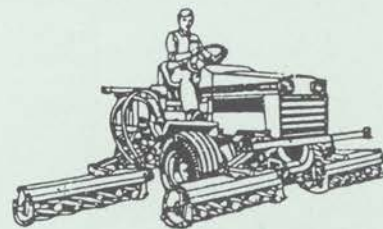
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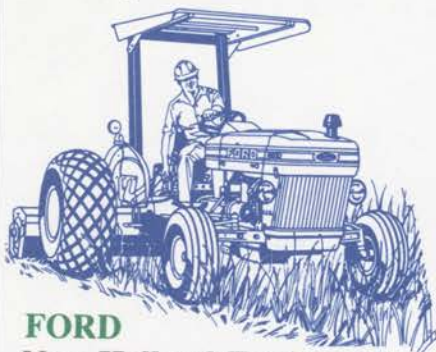
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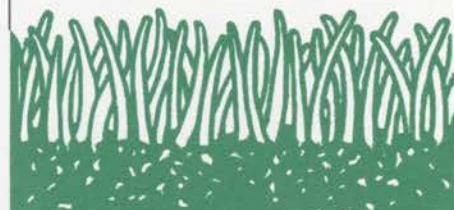
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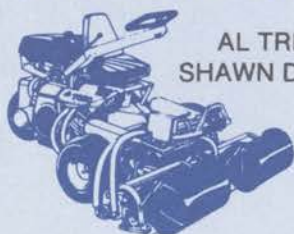
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A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO KEEPING YOUR TREES ALIVE AND WELL

(continued from page 1)

receive just enough to keep them alive, and that means they usually require a longer adjustment period before they can survive on their own.

The Care and Feeding of Mature Trees

Proper preventive tree care is critical in maintaining the vigor and reducing the liability of the mature trees growing on your course. Here are several recommendations for maintaining—and enhancing—the beauty of your established trees:

■ *Prune regularly.* But keep in mind, it's best to prune to retain the natural shape of the tree, not to attain an unnatural growth habit.

■ *Be on the lookout for trees that may benefit from cables or braces.* How many times have you seen trees removed because a major leader was ripped off in a wind or ice storm? In many instances, the installation of a cable or brace could keep a tree intact where it might otherwise be destroyed.

■ *Consider lightening protection for your key trees.* In a split second, a tree can go from a beautiful specimen to a liability that must be removed. Replacements are usually smaller, costly, and it would be years before they mature to fill the space of the one that was lost. Lightening protection is an effective way to save your key trees—and preserve the character of your golf course.

■ *Keep insects in check.* Mature healthy trees can tolerate some degree of insect damage. But when an insect defoliates a tree, it only makes it more susceptible to secondary insects or disease. To avoid this, you should inspect your trees and institute a plan to control any plant-gobbling pests.

The gypsy moth is a timely example of an insect that requires some means of control. Last summer, the pine webworm was active in

white pines in the area. This insect is a periodic problem, but fortunately, it's easily controlled. Check for the webworm mid-May to mid-June.

A more troublesome—and persistent—insect is the pear thrip. If you had sugar maples with thin crowns or with leaves a mottled yellow to green-brown color or even drawfied, there's a good chance that pear thrips were in residence. Moderately damaged foliage on sugar maples can place the tree under some stress and could cause premature leaf drop in early fall. Severe damage could result in early spring defoliation—and even death of

the tree. The bad news is that there's no certain control for pear thrips. Right now, we're recommending late winter, early spring tree injections.

■ *Don't overlook the benefits of fertilization.* A good tree health care program includes fertilization. Supplementing trees with deep root fertilization is a good protective measure—particularly for trees under severe stress.

Tree care begins with selecting the proper tree and continues with an established maintenance program. If this seems like a lot of trouble, just consider the alternative. And remember, your trees' future is in your hands.

VIC CEDRONE
Alpine arborist

Trees Suitable for a Variety of Situations and Locations

Here's an at-a-glance guide to proper tree placement, courtesy of Stephen Kay, golf course architect in Purchase, NY.

By a Tee

American Hornbeam
Marshall Seedless Ash
Norway Spruce
Thornless Honeylocust
Tuliptree
White Pine

By the Green

Birches
Bradford Pear
Japanese Zelkova
Pin Oak
Shadblow Serviceberry
White Pine

Salt Tolerant

Birches
Black Locust
Bur Oak
Japanese Black Pine

Dry Conditions

Amur Maple
Bur Oak
Ginkgo
Honeylocust
White Pine

In the Fairway

Norway Spruce
Pin Oak
Red Maple
Russian Olive
Sugar Maple
White Pine

Flowering Trees

Bradford Pear
Horsechestnut
Kousa Dogwood (tree form)
Kwanzan Cherry (high branched)
Sweetbay Magnolia
Thornless Cockspur Hawthorn

Salt Intolerant

Hemlock
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Maples
White Pine

Wet Conditions

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Clifton, NJ 07014
201-473-3393 or (home) 203-748-5069

Turf Products Corporation *

South Windsor, CT 06074
Dennis Petruzzelli-Irrigation
Al Tretara-Equipment
203-528-9508

Valley View Greenhouse *

Frank Amodio
RR # 2 Box 27, Rt 123
So. Salem, New York 10590
914-533-2504 or 914-533-2526

W.A. Cleary Chemical Corporation

Russ Ward
P.O. Box 10, 1049 Somerset Street
Somerset, NJ 08873
201-247-8000

Westchester Ford Tractor, Inc. *

John M. Apple
Meadow Street
Golden Bridge, NY 10526
914-232-7746

Westchester Turf Supply, Inc. *

Bob Lippman
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