LITERATURE

by its title, the new book "Tips for Dealing with Problems Encountered on the Golf Course," Barbara Pleasant covers a gamut of problems — from viruses to bacteria, author Barbara Pleasant has filled in the blanks on sowing, germinating, planting, maintaining and propagating every plant you might landscape a golf course with in a new book from Storey Communications.

"From Seed to Bloom" is a comprehensive encyclopedia look at more than 500 annuals, perennials and even herbs. Powell is the proprietor of Secret Gardens Landscaping and lives in Arlington, Va. She holds a certificate in landscape design from George Washington University.

The book is available in paperback for $18.95 at bookstores, or from the publisher for $14.90, by contacting Storey Communications, Inc., P.O. Box 445, Pownal, Vt. 05261; 800-441-5700.

SEED-TO-BOOM SIMPLIFIED

POWNAL, Vt. — From abronia to zinnia, author Eileen Powell has filled in the blanks on sowing, germinating, planting, maintaining and propagating every plant you might landscape a golf course with in a new book from Storey Communications.

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MAINTENANCE

Leslie comment: A little praise, a little censure

Continued from page 12

Pennigton absorbed, or the time, energy and frustration.

This was a pure and unadulterated case supporting Lewis H. Lapham’s claim that “the supply of government exceeds the demand.”

As the epicenter of an earthquake lies at the epicenter of trauma on this earth, so Washington, D.C., is indeed the epicenter of some very queer, tumultuous behavior. We can only hope and pray the new Congress does affect change. It is apparent to us, witness legislative measures that would require a reasonable cost-benefit ratio before new laws are enacted, and that lawmakers stay clear of bills that would give bureaucrats reign over such workplace issues as ergonomic.

This relates to golf from the clubhouse (remember the states legislating how much space ladies’ rooms should have compared to men’s rooms?) to the fairway (remember the no-chemical edict to Squaw Creek in California?).

And I recall former Golf Digest Wild Dunes owner David Lucas declaring that our government is “tyranny by legislative fiat and special-interest groups.” Lucas, who formed the Council on Property Rights, can attest to the fact that the Louisiana Purchase of 1803 was merely a 19th-century prelude to 20th-century land grabs by enviro-driven government. He needed to go to the U.S. Supreme Court to beat his own state of South Carolina, which had tried to prevent him from building a home on beach-front property — though it was flanked on either side by homes.

Yet, I would not be so unkind as to agree with Honore de Balzac’s assessment: “Bureaucracy is a giant mechanism operated by pygmys.” Nor would I be so brazen as to agree with Ludwig van Moses’ statement: “Government is the only institution that can take a valuable commodity like paper and make it worthless by applying ink.” Well, I’ll agree with van Moses.

A how-to-go! to Augusta National superintendant Marsh Benson and Double Eagle Club superintendant Terry Buchen, a GCN contributing editor, for finishing 1-2 in the nation in conditioning, as judged by Golf Digest panelists. GD’s Ron Whitten wrote: “Perfection, thy name is Augusta National. But among courses actually open for play during summer months, the surprise is Double Eagle near Columbus, Ohio. How plush is it? They run StymieStorey tests on the tees.”

Wouldn’t you like to trade places for a while with Masters Chairman Jack Stevens and Vice Chairman Joe Ford? They are members of both Augusta National and Double Eagle.

Following up in the Top 10 maintenance poll are Pine Valley, Muirfield Village in Ohio, Oakmont, Shadow Creek, Cypress Point, Merion’s East Course, Inverness in Ohio and The Quarry at La Quinta, Calif.

Paul, we coulda loved ya’... Oh, well, mentioning Paul Harvey’s comparison of the U.S. Golf Association to the tobacco industry, a friend said, “That’s like comparing nuns to Nazis.”

What’s in a name?

Speaking at the Canadian Golf Course Superintendents Association annual conference, Dr. Joe Vargas said: “The biggest mistake we ever made was that we started calling things we used to control plant diseases ‘pesticides.’ People who use things to control human diseases call them ‘medicine.’ It doesn’t matter that you are controlling a bacterial disease in a person or on a plant, you use a bactericide. It doesn’t matter if you are controlling a fungal disease on a plant or on a person, you are using a fungicide. But, unfortunately, when we use them on a plant we call them pesticides... And there is a perception out there that medicines are good and pesticides are bad, when in reality they are oftentimes the same chemistry.”

Hints aside from Vargas in Ottawa:

• When putting fertilizer in a sand-type environment, use either a slow-release fertilizer or one that is soluble where you are putting down limited amounts, so that the fibrous root system can pick it up.

• Thatch is very good at preventing pesticide leaching. “Remember all these years we told you thatch was bad?” he said “Well, now we’re telling you thatch is good.”

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Golf Course News

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33