What to Plant for Course Beauty

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A WONDERFUL verdure of grass, a rolling topography, attractive tree foliage and outline, ornamental shrubbery and flowers galore should be found within the environs of a golf course so that the best of the open country and the best in outdoor creation may be enjoyed. Thus every golf course or links should have a beautiful location as well as most attractive surroundings, and no better spot can be found where native arbor and flora should be paramount. Where possible, an expanse of water or a running stream should be present or adjoining. Whenever a golf course is to be brought about, every concern must be given interesting natural outcrops of beauty which should be as much as possible preserved so that in the playing of the game, even during tense moments on the greens, the effect of beautiful flowers, restful foliage and appealing odors should be felt. Furthermore, extended views, groups or single specimens of wonderful trees and evergreens as well as the enjoyment of an undulating topography interesting in green or some other appealing color might be found.

Clubhouse Landscaping

Around the clubhouse shade trees and evergreens for protection ought to be considered as well as bright flowers or beds or borders, and in some cases ivies clinging against the walls or rambling roses for porchways, arbors and pergolas. The clubhouse itself and surroundings should be always of paramount interest.

We are perhaps most concerned with what to plant. As far as this part of the globe is concerned nothing equals native trees and evergreens. In deciduous trees the White Elm (Ulmus American), Corky Elm (Ulmus Racomosia) or the Oaks, as
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the scarlet (Quercus Coccinea), red (Q. rubra) and white (Q. alba); also the Spreading Beech. Then there are the old standbys, hard or sugar Maples (Acer Saccharum), and the attractive silver form (A. saccharinum). Further south the magnificent Tulip tree (Liriodendron Tulipifera) and Cucumber tree (Magnolia Acuminata) are among the best. The smaller trees have a place too as the Birch (Betula) in various forms, the Poplar (Populus) and Mountain Ash. The native evergreens as the White Spruce (Picea Canadensis), Juniper, the unparallel Canadian Hemlock (Tsuga Canadensis), the rugged White Pine (Pinus Strobus), and especially the White Cedar (Thuja Occidentalis) are all most valuable. All these do well under most conditions. In planting the foregoing one should always think of the natural conditions of soil and moisture and plant accordingly.

Amongst the foreign or exotic trees for consideration are the Norway Maples (Acer Platanoides), green and red foliage varieties, Japanese Gingko (Gingko Biloba), the Lombardy Poplar (Populus nigra italica) for accent planting, also the oriental Plane with its large, silvery foliage.

Among the evergreens not native are Silver Fir (Abies concolor), which is without a rival, the stately Blue Spruce as Picea Kosteri and others. The B. C. Fir (Pseudotsuga Macrocarpa), the many pines, as the Austrian and the Columnar Swiss Pine. In the smaller types are Mountain Pine (Pinus mugho), dwarf cedars, the Swiss Juniper and the Japanese Yew (Taxus Cuspidata).

Shrubbery Selections

In shrubbery the native Dogwoods are always first-class. In more favored places the large flowering form does well (C. florida) and is a fit companion for the Judas Tree (Cercis Canadensis). The best exotic shrubbery comprise Honeysuckles, which are most attractive in flower and after flowering with colored berries, the spireas, Van Houttei and Arguta, not forgetting S. Anthony Waterer for color. The Lilacs, too, must have a place on account of their wonderful fragrance and large blossoms, and thought must be given to the sweet-smelling Mock Orange. For fall effect High-bush Cranberry with attractive red berries

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All wild flowers should be preserved as much as possible, even in the rough such as Yarrow, Clovers, Hawk Weed, Daisies and many others might be allowed to grow, and, wherever moist and shady banks exist, Trilliums, Orchids, Nepaticas, Spring Beauties and a host of others should be encouraged. The Golden Rod and Perennial Aster also have their place. For swampy land where shade exists the Kalmia latifolia, Periwinkle and Creeping Neptas, have their place. Wherever the trailing arbutus will grow, permit it, if convenient.

For sun exposed banks and outcrops of rocks, Wishuriana roses as Dorothy Perkins and several others will respond well, as well as sweet-smelling trailing Honey-suckles.

To hide unsightly spots evergreens and fast growing shrubbery may be used. For covering arbors and trellises the so-called rambling roses as Paul’s Scarlet Climber, Tausendshon, Hiawatha and other forms as Climbing American Beauty are par excellence. Native and other wild roses are splendid for banks and are interesting by way of flowers. The Sweet Briar should be planted for the sweet perfume given off by the leaves.

For mass planting in convenient places perennials ought to be thought of, as Paeonies, Iris, Phlox, Shasta Daisies, Delphiniums and a host of others. Among annuals from seed sown outside are Shirley Poppies, California Poppies, Mignonette, Sweet Alyssum and Portulaca—all are worth sowing where bare spots occur.

Much may be said but it is a matter of preserving and in some cases creating the most beautiful artistic landscape and floral effects that should be paramount for a modern golf course. It is not only recreation but inspiration that should come about being in close touch with the Creator’s best gifts of all, as sunshine, varied skies, fresh air, and beautiful surroundings.

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