and sweeps.
mower that cleans, mows tractor. It's the pick-up empties easily from the
through high weeds and sweeps leaves, wades greens, tees and fairways,
thatches lawns, verti-cuts clippings in one pass! The

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To many of us, "ground-cover" signifies only pachysandra, ivy and vinca, which, delightful as they may be in small doses, and satisfactory as they are for many purposes, are just the beginnings of ground cover.

Golf courses, like public parks, and the surrounding public and industrial buildings, have many areas which are put into grass simply because nothing else has been suggested. Yet, amenity horticulture, as the British put it, is as necessary and desirable there as in our private gardens.

As we all know, a stretch of close-mown turf is a pretty thing. With a contrast, even in just the height of mowing, it can become beautiful. Ground covers, in some variety, offer an easy means to provide low-maintenance plantings to provide more contrast—in color, in form, and in texture—especially around the Clubhouse areas. They can control weeds on hills, in marshy areas, where tree roots and rocks make mowing hazardous, and in those places where soil and light conditions make turf impractical.

It has become the fashion these days to pass over English gardening and horticultural books as being impractical for this country because cultural conditions are so different, and detailed directions for specific plants do not apply here. It seems to me, though, that there is far more difference between, for instance, Oregon and Arizona or Texas than between England and Missouri or Illinois! We can make adjustments to climatic conditions for plants quite easily; adjusting our ways of thinking is a lot harder.

Thomas lists and discusses here literally hundreds of plants—woody, climbers, and herbaceous—to give wide choices for any part of the United States. He lists them by use, by preferred habitat, and by soil requirements. He points out, not just their favorable aspects, but the difficulties which they can cause, as well. This book, though written for the amateur, is an authoritative reference for the professional groundskeeper, the landscape architect, and, yes, the Golf Course Superintendent.

Graham Thomas, by the way, is a top notch plantsman himself, awarded the Victoria Medal of Honour and the RHS Veitch Memorial Medal. He has been official Gardens Adviser to the National Trust, which administers many of Britain's finest estate gardens.