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Bag Boy

The toughest golf cart you can sell.
Trees on Golf Courses

by Geoffrey S. Cornish & William G. Robinson

For centuries the open links of Scotland have afforded the ultimate in golfing interest. Nevertheless, few golfers will deny that trees add impressive dimensions to our North American inland layouts.

Planted anywhere on a golf course, trees enhance eye appeal. But haphazard planting has compromised many a great hole and compounded the superintendent's problems in maintaining his greenswards. To be an asset, rather than a liability, each tree must be critically positioned in accordance with the overall considerations of course architecture—namely, the game itself, aesthetics, and future maintenance.

Established clubs and daily fee courses should take a close and critical look at their trees from time to time. Additional trees may be needed, or rearrangement of existing ones. In regard to the latter, transplanting of larger trees is more likely to be successful today than formerly, since the advent of giant tree spades.

The important but sometimes overlooked subject of siting trees on a golf course is introduced in accompanying sketches that illustrate several considerations necessary in planting new trees, transplanting established ones, or initial clearing.

Geoffrey S. Cornish and William G. Robinson of Fiddlers Green, Amherst, Mass., are members of the American Society of Golf Course Architects. Robinson is also a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

1. Potential playing interest may never be realized on a hole devoid of trees (left). Planted haphazardly (center) trees create a "freak hole". Positioned correctly (right) they enhance strategy and eye appeal without adding maintenance problems.
2. In addition to beauty and mass between fairways, trees exercise many functions. A few of these are (a) shade at tees, (b) shot definition, (c) strategy, (d) wind break, (e) depth perception, (f) safety along boundaries.

3. In selecting and siting a species consider silhouette in relation to function. These are silhouettes of trees often seen on golf courses north of the palm areas.
Some ground is level. Some is contoured. Only Jacobsen Aerators are designed to handle both.

The ability to aerate both in-line and contour turf surfaces with the same aerator is an exclusive Jacobsen feature. We designed it with the dual ability simply to match the way ground really is, rather than the way we wish it would be.

Closed coring tines, open coring tines, cultivating tines, slicing blade and spiking blade offer a variety of aerating methods. Jacobsen's patented frame design makes even penetration of uneven ground possible. Because the aerator is built in sections, you can equip each section with an individual weight tray. This lets each section closely conform to the contours of uneven ground. Or, you can use full length trays for level ground.

Then, to aerate properly according to your specific ground conditions, you have a selection of tines and blades.

With these you can aerate, core, spike, slice, cultivate and renovate compacted earth.

These open the dirt to let air, sun, water and fertilizers soak deeper into the root system of turf that's getting choked by heavy or compacted soil.

There are two models you can pick from. The 590 aerates a seven foot swath, the 595 does a five foot swath. And both operate up to 10 mph.

Notice how each section rides close to uneven contours of ground to provide even aeration. Individual weight trays provide pressure.

For healthier and more luxuriant turf, you might take a close look at Jacobsen Aerators. They're the only ones designed to work on ground that's either even or contoured.

Jacobsen Manufacturing Company, Racine, Wisconsin 53403

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Take a look at leadership.
Trees on Golf Courses

4. Trees closer than 60 to 80 feet from the putting surface aggravate turfgrass problems by reducing sunlight and air circulation. Here arrows indicate an area where water surface drains from the green. If shaded for even a few hours a day severe problems arise in humid periods or when ice lingers in spring.

5. Trees are associated with safety. On the other hand they can cause accidents. Here a ball ricochets from a tree trunk near a tee.
6. Choice gallery space for major tournaments is increased or decreased thru tree positioning.

7. Trees behind a green aid depth perception making the approach easier to judge and more exciting.
Contour mowing of fairways to create curving rather than straight lines between fairways and roughs adds to playing interest, eye appeal and may reduce maintenance outlays. Trees can be worked dramatically into contour mowing patterns.

A breathtaking view of a finishing green with harbor in background is reduced and then eliminated in less than a decade by siting trees between green and clubhouse with no thought to mature height.
Certification proves superintendents’ professionalism

by David C. Holler, CGCS

When a club needs a good accountant, it finds a CPA. When looking for a good manager, those candidates with MBAs and other business degrees often are best. When legal help is needed, most people turn to a member of the bar. But what should a club look for when it needs a golf course superintendent? The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) considers “CGCS” to be a reliable credential that should not be overlooked. It stands for “Certified Golf Course Superintendent.”

The profession of turf management is becoming increasingly complex, and it is difficult for the CPAs, lawyers, and other professionals who hire superintendents to know exactly what the turf professional should be able to do.

Among the many things a superintendent must understand are fertilizers, maintenance products, government regulations, pesticide usage, ecology, plant physiology, and weather. He also needs to understand things like personnel management, equipment maintenance, budgeting and, of course, the game of golf.

The CGCS after a superintendent’s name is an indication that his peers consider him to have the knowledge to handle this complex job well.

What does it mean?

Another reason GCSAA feels that CGCS is a valuable credential is that equally good golf course superintendents often have different backgrounds, which makes measuring their golf course management skills difficult. Some superintendents have backgrounds in civil engineering.

David C. Holler, CGCS, is golf course superintendent at Gulph Mills Golf Club, King of Prussia, Pa. He received an associate degree in turf management from Pennsylvania State University and a degree in business management from La Salle Extension University.

Holler has been a member of GCSAA for 11 years and a director since 1976. He is also a member of the Central Pennsylvania GCSA and has served as director, secretary, and newsletter editor of the Philadelphia Association of GCS.
“Productivity is up 10% to 20%”

“Lower absenteeism”

“You can tell by their attitude—the workers who participate are happier, more cooperative, much sharper”

“We can identify direct savings of $2,000,000 per year”

“The program has had a distinct bearing on staff performance. Our engineering people now have a camaraderie with their counterparts in other departments”

“It started in headquarters. By next year we hope to have it in all our factories and research facilities”

These are actual quotes from executives of large and small companies and organizations in Denver, Omaha, Birmingham, and Greenwich. They’re talking about company fitness programs. That’s right, many employers now provide facilities or opportunities for exercise for their employees. They are glad they did.

Most began with a concern for employee health and well being. What they have found is a variety of additional benefits. These benefits add up to increased productivity—so much so that several companies can demonstrate that the fitness program pays for itself. Add to this improved morale, better internal communications, and employee health. How can you lose? Write us now for more information:

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Department B
Washington, D.C. 20201

Employee Fitness: In the long run you will be the winner.
The certification program provides a credential laymen can use when evaluating golf course superintendents.

Who is certified?
Some 2,000 of GCSAA’s nearly 4,200 members are eligible to become certified. So far about 17 percent of that number, or 350, have satisfied the requirements, and 3 more are in the process. Those who are certified are now working in 40 states, Canada and Guam. Moreover, the number of certified members is increasing steadily, along with GCSSA membership and the number of those eligible to be certified.

GCSSA anticipates that in 1977, about 75 more superintendents will earn certification. To become certified, a superintendent has to follow these steps:

1. Be a Class A member of GCSAA for two years. This means having the responsibility for the maintenance of a golf course for at least 5 years. (He must be in charge of a golf course for 3 years before he can become a Class A member.)

2. Through appropriate channels, make application, which is verified for accuracy.

3. Take and pass, with a score of 80 percent or higher, a comprehensive, 6-hour, written examination on the following topics:
   - Practical Turf Management
   - Business Administration
   - Rules of Golf
   - Plant Protectant Chemicals
   - Leadership
   - History, Ethics, Procedures, Purposes of GCSAA

Those who meet all these requirements are qualified to use “CGCS” after their names.

In order to protect the integrity of the title and program, a superintendent must, after 5 years, show evidence that he has continued his education, if he wants to renew his certification for another 5 years.

Continuing education sufficient for certification renewal may take several forms. Partial credit can be earned by participating in the annual GCSAA International Turfgrass Conference and Show (which this year offered more than 50 hours of educational opportunities). More credit can be earned by taking part in GCSAA-sponsored seminars on subjects like pesticide usage, landscaping, turf nutrition, etc., and still more by undergoing additional high-level testing. At the end of the first 5-year certification period, 85 percent of those originally certified have renewed their credentials.

In summation
The certification program not only allows the golf course superintendent to be measured; it also provides a credential laymen can use when evaluating golf course superintendents. GCSAA Director of Education Palmer Maples, Jr., summed up the program when he said, “Certification itself is no absolute guarantee of performance. It is however, a demonstration that the certified person has been measured by his peers against a predetermined set of standards and has the required body of knowledge to perform well.”

CGCS is being considered a meaningful and respected credential of many golf courses. You may want to consider this credential the next time you are looking for a superintendent for your golf course.