

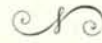


Golf Course Construction

from the Greenkeeper's Standpoint

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CHAPTER VII—Landscaping the Golf Course

LANDSCAPING should be the frame to a finished golf course picture of both beauty and charm. To bring additional beauty to satisfactory country club property by artificial means, although the result will seem natural, is the purpose of landscaping.

The attractiveness of a golf course always increases its charm. Hours spent in congenial surroundings are likely to be more pleasant. Satisfactory links test the skill of the golfer under harmonious surroundings where the cares and worries of every-day life can be forgotten.

Beauty should be the keynote of the landscape design. Generally this may best be obtained by simplicity and a careful avoidance of an appearance of artificiality. The golf course is a haven of refuge where the golfer may forget regular cares and enjoy fresh air and sunshine in congenial environment. Although the property may be located in a city, the surroundings should make the golfer forget the worries of city life. Shielded by vine-clad fences or rows of hazel or hawthorne trees, the premises may be isolated completely and a new world may be created upon the golf course, a world which will provide the golfer with inspiration.

Permanent development is just as desirable in landscaping as in any other feature of the property. Cheap, rapid growing and short-lived trees and shrubs are neither economical nor satisfactory. They seldom reach perfection and soon must be replaced at additional expense. It is better to make fewer but more satisfactory plantings each year according to the funds available. Results are likely to be much more gratifying.

LANDSCAPING SHOULD BE PLANNED EARLY

GENERAL landscaping plans should be formulated by the club even before the course is constructed if possible. Usually the golf course architect will be able to explain from the approved design which features of the landscape are to be retained and developed and to visualize the appearance of the completed course.

Desirable nursery stock in sufficient quantities to landscape a golf course is not always obtainable at every nursery. Haste should be avoided and a little shopping is recommended. Frequently it may be necessary to visit several nurseries and sometimes to make arrangements to have nursery stock delivered from considerable distance.

After purchases have been made, they should be left at the nursery until time for actual transplanting. This should be done by the nursery man whenever possible as he is familiar with the care which his stock requires and will be interested in supplying the club with the best of his products for advertising reasons.

Sometimes it is possible to purchase fair-sized trees which are not wanted because they are on building sites. The job of moving a mature tree is hard but it is not at all impossible. The experienced tree mover usually digs a square trench about the trunk and boxes the soil about the roots. For medium-sized trees it is easier to dig a trench about three feet deep around the tree about five feet from the trunk. After the soil has been loosened, planks are placed under the roots and the tree is pulled over on to a wheeled drag.

The roots should be thoroughly saturated before

the tree is moved and the soil should be kept from falling off the roots. Burlap should be wrapped around the portions of the trunk likely to become injured in moving. After a tree has been replanted, its roots should be thoroughly watered and its trunk should be steadied by guy ropes to prevent it from being blown over before it has become established again.

To make the most of every attractive vista should be the endeavor of both the clubhouse architect and the golf-course architect. They should cooperate so that both the view from the clubhouse upon the course and from the course to the clubhouse will be as perfect as possible. The clubhouse should be built upon a site which will set it off to the best advantage. The surrounding landscaping will add to the perfection of the picture.

BEAUTIFUL APPROACH IS GREAT ASSET

A BEAUTIFUL approach to the clubhouse is a tremendous asset. Driveways lined with well-kept shade trees may be further beautified by plantings of dogwood, redbud, wild or rambler roses or Japanese honeysuckle. Pivot hedges are usually satisfactory for bordering walks. The approach should not be neglected because the impression of it is the first received and usually the last forgotten.

Around the clubhouse the chief aim should be to create an atmosphere of natural charm, free from any appearance of artificiality. Attention should be paid not only to the selection of trees and shrubs but also to their placing so that they will be set off to the best advantage. Mass plantings of mock orange, *opulifolia*, common lilac, red and yellow dogwood, snowberry and honeysuckle are always in good taste. Plants, which are indigenous to the locality, are preferable to exotics which may not bloom in the environment with full beauty.

Wild flowers are often lovers of shade and many of them will grow with little encouragement. Seeds of wild flowers are somewhat difficult to obtain and usually need special treatment before being sown. Holly and dogwood have such a hard seed coat that it is usually two winters before they germinate. Wild rice and gentian seed will not grow if allowed to bake out. The best method is to transplant the growing plants from nearby sections where the climatic and soil conditions are similar to those on the course.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS

FOR areas not too densely shaded there are a great many wild herbaceous annuals and perennials. Among them may be mentioned violets, blue-eyed Mary, Virginia creeper, golden ragwort, hepatica, bloodroot, anemone, phlox, trillium, bluebell, wild geranium, phacelia, May apple, twin-leaf, spiderwort, stonecrop, toothwort and larkspur.

If leaf mould or acid soil is available, maidenhair fern, wild ginger, trailing arbutus, violet wood-axalis, partridge berry, bunch-berry and lady's slipper will grow luxuriantly. Moss pink, saxifrage, rockcress and red columbine are especially adapted to rocky areas.

The type of wild flowers to plant in open meadows depends upon the moisture and condition of the soil. If the ground is naturally inclined to be damp, dog-toothed violet, cardinal flower, gentian and rose pink are suggested. If the subsurface is peat or the soil is acid, it is possible to grow wild orchids. Dry soil will grow a great many varieties of wild flowers such as fox-glove, California poppies, asters, evening primrose, Mariposa lily and lupine. In addition, plant pokeberry, bayberry, hackleberry, buffaloberry, crowberry, huckleberry, blueberry, juniper, madrone, mazzanita and such bushes to attract birds.

The parking space, utility buildings and any undeveloped areas should be never be visible from the course or the clubhouse. Vines, such as honeysuckle, morning glory and wild rose, should be encouraged to cover fences. Tall shrubs or trees may be used most effectively for screening purposes and will do their share to add beauty to the property as a whole.

GOLF COURSE NOT A PICNIC GROUND

A GOLF course is not a picnic ground and there is seldom any occasion for planting a small forest. A few trees well placed usually are more effective than many trees too close together. There are a number of very desirable trees for golf courses. Among them may be mentioned the maple, oak, elm, hickory, ash, tulip, poplar, walnut, beech, birch, wild crab, hawthorn, black cherry, yellow wood, buckeye, gum and cedar.

The most desirable trees are those which have straight trunks and branches from seven to nine feet above the ground at maturity. In the Middle West, Norway maples, American elms, sweet gums,

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horse chestnuts, and American linden trees are very satisfactory.

Common sense should rule the selection of trees. Choosing the right varieties is the starting point of shade tree success. The most painstaking care may be given to planting and cultivation but, if unsuitable species have been selected, results will be disappointing. While pines and Carolina poplars are beautiful trees, they do not belong on golf courses. Any species having brittle twigs and easily detached leaves is not desirable either.

The rough is no place for an orchard as it is likely to become too attractive. Whenever possible, perfectly-shaped trees should be planted as misshapen trees seldom improve with age. Deformed trees may be attractive in rugged surroundings but generally they look out of place on golf courses.

The choice of proper varieties of trees should not be difficult. Factors to be considered are adaptability to the climate and soil, desirable size at maturity, density of shade and ability to withstand local plant diseases and storms. Advice on the best species can be obtained from state and national departments of forestry. Local nurserymen should be well informed and their advice should not be ignored as it is to their advantage to make suitable recommendations.

Climatic conditions should be given first consideration in the selection of trees. Mountain trees usually do not grow well elsewhere. It is foolish to send long distances for special varieties of trees for in most cases they will not thrive out of their native environment. Cases are known where pines, firs and spruces have been shipped long distances at great expense only to die in the lower altitudes.



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CAREFUL CULTIVATION IS IMPORTANT

CAREFUL cultivation is a factor of tree growth. It must not be imagined that trees may be carelessly planted and then neglected. While they do not require much attention when mature, they should have considerable care when young. It is only common sense to give them this care in order to protect the investment and to allow them to become as attractive as possible. To obtain the best results the soil about trees should permit the roots to obtain plenty of water.

Trees should not be planted in clay soil which will prevent surface water from seeping down to their roots. Many slow-growing varieties will show better growth under proper care than fast-growing species left to shift for themselves. All trees should be inspected at least every three months. Dead limbs or dying branches should be sawed off and the stubs protected by antiseptic treatment so that decay will not attack the trunk.

Surgical work upon the larger specimens requires the attention of a specialist skilled in this line of work and usually it pays to have such a specialist inspect the property once a year. Often many fine trees may be preserved which is certainly a fine investment.

When transplanted, trees should be of suitable size and the trunks should be at least three inches in diameter. Most trees take a long time to develop and it must not be thought that they can be planted in the fall and reach maturity at the commencement of the next summer. The yearly growth of trees after a certain stage is almost unnoticeable.

Cheap trees seldom are economical. A silver maple will have to be replaced at about the time that a red oak or beech has reached its best development. The planting of short-lived trees should be

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avoided not only because of the additional expense but because the appearance of the property is likely to be mutilated temporarily. The actual cost of a tree is only a small part of its expense. Cheap trees, which require an excessive amount of attention or fail to develop properly, are really expensive.

Many desirable uses may be found for trees removed from areas occupied by the fairways, greens and tees. Sometimes quite a number of trees must be cut down when the property is cleared. Large trees may often be used in the construction of a rustic clubhouse. Smaller trees are very useful in the making of rustic benches and in the building of rustic bridges and fences which will add to the general attractiveness of the course.

DOUBLE FAIRWAYS DIVIDED BY TREES

Double fairways may be divided very attractively by trees and plantings of shrubs which will reach a height of about five feet when mature. The beds should be about 100 feet long and 10 feet wide. Dogwood, bridal wreath, barberry, lilac and

white thorn are always popular. These bushes often add color to monotonously green fairways and set them off to fine advantage. Such plantings require a certain amount of attention but it may be given to them when work cannot be done on the rest of the course without interfering with play. Labor spent upon such landscape features always pays fine dividends.

Border plantings of shrubs in some cases may be more desirable than trees. Spring and autumn beauty may be provided by mannyberry, white thorn, and dogwood bushes. Sumach, cranberry and hawthorne bushes also are desirable.

Water features of the course present many opportunities for landscape artistry. Winding lagoons and sparkling lakelets, beautiful in themselves may be made still more beautiful through pond lillies and fringes of graceful willows, blue flag, marsh marigold and lotus. If rocks are available, they may be used to create artificial cascades and stepping stones.

Next Month—Bringing the New Course Along

Pacific Coast Gossip

By ARTHUR LANGTON

IN ALL but the most northern portion of the Pacific Coast, greenkeepers even now are preparing, not to settle down for the winter, but to receive the hordes of tourist golfers demanding days of perfect playing weather and courses of polished perfection.

The visitors probably will get a large measure of that which they seek, although Indians and government weather bureaus unite in predicting a rainy winter for California at least. The government's report is based upon the fact that in Alaska a cool summer has been experienced, thus keeping cool the current which bathes Pacific shores (or it may be that the coldness of the current has kept Alaska cool). This low temperature, say scientists, almost invariably is the forerunner of a heavy precipitation.

Any downpour above normal will be welcomed by Southwestern greenkeepers inasmuch as the annual rainfall has been below normal for several years. In fact, the last fifteen years have been deficient, but scientists

at the University of California claim that the next decade will see a decided rise in rainfall figures. This prediction is based upon a learned and intensive study of sun spots.

However, eastern golfers who are planning their annual visit to the coast need have no fear that their golf will be confined entirely to the indoor variety more than in the past. It is to be expected that Washington, Oregon, and Northern California will receive a lot of rain; because when do they not?

The old saw originated in this territory about the visitor asking the native if it rained all the time. The native assured him that it did not since "sometimes it snowed." Of course, no native will admit of ever having said anything like this because the weather most of the year is delightful and perfect for golf.

In Southern California the rainy days rarely exceed more than fifteen and in some places there is none at all. Arizona is safe for the winter golfer as its rainy season is already over. It is not saying too much to predict that Arizona will become much more popular as a winter golfing resort than it is now.

At present there are only half a dozen all-grass courses in play in the whole of the state and these are constantly

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