

BRINGING OUR ROOTS BACK TO THE FUTURE

Do you remember watching the British Open on television this year? Can you remember how brown the golf course appeared?

I remembered asking my green committee chairman the next day what he thought about the conditions and he quickly responded, "Deplorable!"

That adjective sounds a little harsh, but let's face it: courses in America are commonly wall-to-wall green and kept in impeccable condition.

Perhaps a little too impeccable.

Maybe our Scottish forefathers are ahead of the game, while we are out there digging our own graves. Just how long can we continue to overproduce?

Let's be honest. American golf courses are maintained too well and

everyone's at fault. We as superintendents strive to make our golf course better every year. When will we reach our limit? What about American golfers? Are they getting spoiled? We hear them complain about those things we

Perhaps it's time to look back across the Pond, where superintendents have been nurturing the game of golf for centuries. Maybe they have been ahead of the game all along while we have been digging our graves.

do for our own good like aerifying, top dressing, verticutting and so on.

Those Scotsmen do far less and are far better off. And I mean no disrespect: they've got this business figured out far better than we do.

Many American golfers travel from place to place, playing each golf course

at its peak level of maintenance. Our members travel from north to south, expecting perfection at each stop along the way. Member-guest tournaments compound the problem. If the course down the road has something special, you can sure bet that your members will have you doing the same thing in the very near future.

And what about touring pros?

Is there such a thing as a silver spoon? Is the American touring pro spoiled? We hear of foreign pros playing more competitively because

they are more familiar with normal world conditions. Again, are we spoiling our pros with fast greens, tight fairways and so on?

It's got so bad that now we hear TV commentators discussing "roll of the fairways!"

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EMPLOYMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

SALARY: \$2,329 - 2,830 /
month (plus PERS)

FINAL FILING DATE:
May 11, 1990

THE POSITION: Under direction, performs a variety of skilled and semi-skilled golf course maintenance and construction activities; operates equipment pertaining to tasks; performs the more difficult aspects of golf course maintenance and repair.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of: Plant identification and propagation; tools and materials used in golf course maintenance, construction and repair; operation of equipment.

Skill to: Read and write legibly; understand and follow oral and written directions; safely operate hand and power tools, and equipment needed to perform assigned tasks.

Experience: Two years of full-time, paid experience in golf course maintenance.

License: Possession of appropriate, valid California driver's license at the time of appointment, and an acceptable driving record as determined by the City of Livermore.

Certification: Must be able to obtain a valid State of California, Department of Food and Agriculture, Qualified Applicator Certificate by the end of the first year of employment.