

Improper Planting Kills Trees

The Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories, with the cooperation of Bartlett IPM technicians and representatives in four different areas, excavated 363 trees which were planted by landscape firms within the past two years.

Of the trees surveyed, 93 percent were found to have excessive soil on the root collar or be mulched too heavily. Sixteen percent had materials against the trunk which were already starting to girdle the tree.

It was determined that the major cause of tree mortality on maintained landscapes could be the result of too deep or improper planting. Often, this problem can be traced back to the nursery, which piled soil against the trunk or transplanted too deeply. If the landscape professional or maintenance personnel piled soil or water-holding mulch against the trunk, the problem would be made worse. Mulch should not touch more than one inch of the trunk and, away from the trunk, depth should not exceed four inches. Yearly additions should be made only to maintain this four inch depth. Yearly removal and replacement defeats half the purpose of using mulch.

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GCSAA CONFERENCE

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ized by large, fairly flat greens. Participants in GCSAA's championship will play the West Course, a 6,613-yard, par-72 layout with a slope of 126. Tim Greenwald is the golf course superintendent.

In anticipation of a large number of participants, a fifth course was added to

GCSAA's '95 tournament rotation. The Bayonet, designed by Gen. Robert McClure and located at Fort Ord, is a 7,000-yard, par-72 layout with a slope of 132. The military opened the Bayonet and its companion course on the base, The Black Horse, to the public play last year. Nick Moana is the golf course superintendent.

Tips from the USGA Congratulations! You Get to Keep Your Job... For Another Year

*by Paul Vermeulen
USGA Agronomist*

Most of the people Paul and I have visited this season have had a pretty good year overall. Despite some long spells of hot weather, there was not any widespread turf failure throughout the region. One course I visited seemed to be having a pretty good year, and the green chairman mentioned that everyone was pleased with the condition of the golf course. Then he said, "I guess we can let our superintendent keep his job for another year."

Although it was meant as a joke, this statement sent a chill down my spine. It reminded me how uncertain the superintendent's job can be at times. In most professions, good performance is rewarded with a promotion or pay increase. For golf course superintendents, a successful season is often attributed to good weather or luck. But, lose two square feet of turf on a putting green and you may be in jeopardy of losing your job. The pressure is tremendous! I can't think of any profession, other than coaching professional sports, where the person hired to make the decisions is scrutinized and second-guessed more often.

This year, it has been disappointing to see the angry faces of golfers, managers, and green chairmen along with the worried look of superintendents wondering if they are going to be fired because the bunkers are "too something" or the greens are not fast enough. As a result, some people in a position of authority feel that a new superintendent is the answer - I think a new attitude is the answer! After a long, stressful summer, it is important to remember that golf is a GAME. Most golfers recognize this fact, yet there is often a vocal minority that take golf too seriously and derive a perverse sense of pleasure by threatening the

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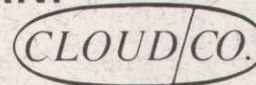
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