

GOLF 'SCAPING

Flowers add COLOR CLOUT

The best arrangements add excitement and reflect the mood and colors in the surrounding landscape.

by Steve & Suz Trusty

■ Flowers add something extra to high visibility areas on the golf course.

Traditionally, the most flower-intensive spot on a course has been the clubhouse entrance.

Thereafter, most of the course is trimmed in shades of green, with grasses and trees or native vegetation that form the backdrop for the rough areas.

Rob Sawyer is principal of Land Concern, Limited, Santa Ana, Calif., which concentrates on marketing and merchandising solutions for residential areas. According to Sawyer, colorful focal elements and visual relief from color add to

the golfers' day, and to the players' estimation of course maintenance.

Some planting tips:

- Plant most flowers in areas where golfers tend to spend most of their time. Such a time/space relationship gives you the chance to strengthen the message that the course is well-managed and aesthetically pleasing.

- The strongest focal points are around the tee box, about 200 yards out from the tee and around the green.

- Other flower bed locations could be key spots on the cart path, but not along the fairways and other areas golfers merely "pass by."

- In tournament or outing play, there is usually a staging area. By need, there's a great deal of hardscaping in this location to accommodate the cart lineup. However, attention to detail and some added beauty



Combine annuals and ornamental grasses for an exotic and colorful impression.

will pay off if players spend an hour in that area as they wait for play to begin.

- Players may also spend 20-30 minutes at the food service area after the first nine, perhaps more than at the clubhouse.

- Finally, there's the cart drop-off area. Depending on the crowd, people may spend more time there than any other spot on the course. The last impression of the course shouldn't be of washed-down carts and battery chargers.

- Golfers come to the course seeking a break from the day's routine. They're enthusiastic, they want to get to the game.

Bright, intense colors arranged in structured, flowing patterns mirror and enhance that mood. As play winds down around the 17th and 18th holes, soft colors and less-structured, more carefree designs add to the sense of relaxation, making the round of golf a more satisfying experience.

Remember, flowers can clash with each other just like a poorly chosen wardrobe. Mariam Tate, owner of Mariam Tate Co.,

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The area surrounding the tee box is one of the strongest focal points on the entire golf course.

ELSEWHERE

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an architectural color consultant firm in Irvine, Calif., says some flowers are too bright, too stimulating for the surroundings.

Tate is also a member of The Color Marketing Group, an international, non-profit association of design and color professionals, located in Alexandria, Va. She suggests:

- Dusky purples, car-amels and reds will pick up the sunset, any nearby rock outcroppings and evening shadows of a mountain view.

- For coastal areas, consider copying the colors of the water, the sunrise, the beach sand and rocks.

- Courses in the Southwest may use

the desert as master palette. There, the colors are many: sunrise and sunset; bright blossoms; subtle, cool colors from the sand, native cactus and sage brush.

- Sawyer stresses seasonal color as well as annual hues. Seasonal color with perennials and flowering shrubs can generate favorable impressions with less maintenance.

- Don't forget green. Build on shades of green, layering hues of light and dark, or using variations in the blue-green or yellow-green palette. Use perennials with variegated leaves, and add tones of white, yellow, pink or red.

Annuals, of course, are high maintenance choices, and may need lots of water,

depending on the varieties chosen.

Plant annuals where care can be provided easily and economically. Borders of annuals around—or in—a portion of permanent beds may make for a good mix.

Try red and white petunias by the clubhouse, deep pink impatiens by the ninth hole turn. But change them the next year.

For a final lesson, play your course or a neighboring one. Where does the course look weak? What views and combinations are most striking? Take notes—photos if you can—and use them for guidance.

—The authors are freelance writers specializing in the horticultural field. They work out of their office in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

LM survey says flowers more popular than ever at nation's golf courses

One super-intendent LM talked to says he buys 200 to 300 flats each year at a cost of between \$6 and \$7 per flat.

■ It's no longer unusual to find flowers in and around the nation's golf courses. Virtually all the golf course superintendents—97.8 percent, actually—surveyed by LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT magazine admit to having them on their courses.

Most—nine out of 10—use annual flowers in the clubhouse area, but annuals are becoming more popular at various other points on the course itself.

For instance, about 60 percent (of the 93 supers we surveyed at the GCSAA's last national conference) feature annuals around tees. Almost half use them between holes, and nearly one-fourth have them around greens.

Roland White of Bald Peak Country Club in Melvin Village, N.H., could have been one of the first superintendents to feature flowers on his course. He started planting them 19 years ago and now has "beds all around the course."

"Overall, there's less maintenance, once you've got the beds in shape," White reports. "We treat them every spring with Eptam

and find we have very few weeds."

White hires two women to tend the flowers and flower beds around the clubhouse—one his wife—during the summer. They work 24 to 36 hours each.

"We put the flowers where they can be seen, in front of our stone walls, around boulders—but we don't have mass plantings," White says. "They go real well here in New Hampshire."

Among the more popular annuals are marigolds, impatiens, snapdragons, periwinkle and salvia. Each species is specific to the types and amounts of soil, fertility, light and water required.

There have been flowers on display at Franklin Hills Country Club, Franklin, Mich. since **Tom Lawrence** has been there—five years. This year, he's switching to more annuals after a season with more perennials.

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PERCENT OF GOLF COURSES USING ANNUAL COLOR, BY LOCATION

