

TIPS ON BUYING QUALITY STOCK

(OF THE TREE AND SHRUB VARIETY)

There are several different sources from which golf courses can purchase top quality nursery stock. These sources include local nurserymen, mail order nurserymen and reliable nursery agents.

What should you look for in purchasing plants? Five guides have been designed by the American Association of Nurserymen to help assure satisfaction.

1. Select a reliable source, or sources, of supply and stick with it.

If this first rule is observed, there often is no other need to adhere to the remaining rules. The reputations of local or mail order, or agent nurserymen are generally known by one's neighbors and can be checked easily. The American Association of Nurserymen's seal is helpful, since the group's members generally are the industry's leaders.

2. Beware of extraordinary claims, both advertising as well as oral claims. A tree will not, unless the structure happens to be a doghouse, grow "roof high in one season." The range of growth for trees in one year is from a few inches to perhaps a maximum of four or five feet. Question anything that is advertised as growing more than four feet in a single year. It will be easy to check growth claims with nurserymen you know, arboretum or park authorities, etc.

3. There is a wide range in the number of flowers produced by plants. Some flowering trees or shrubs will produce thousands of blooms. Watch for such exaggerated claims. "Many bushels of fruit, the very first year" is patently false.

It is general practice to show trees or shrubs in bloom or in fruit at maturity. This is so you can visualize what the tree will look like when fully grown. Obviously such a tree cannot be transported or shipped to you, except at considerable cost. You will therefore receive a shrub or tree that is from two to 10 years old. If planted according to instructions it will in time grow to look like the specimen, which may take another two, or even 20 or 30 years or more, depending on the species. Trees and shrubs vary tremendously in many ways, growth rate, number and size of flowers, fruits, etc., but usually one can detect outlandish claims if he looks for them.

4. There are "bargains" in nursery stock, as with everything else. Obviously, however, a very small seedling size rooted cutting can sell at a lower price than the usual landscape size tree or shrub that has been given years of care before placing it on the market. If you have any doubts about the age, size, or quality, inquire before purchasing. Ask about their size and if the plants adhere to AAN standards. If not, do some checking.

5. There are new discoveries in plants each year, such as new varieties of roses, camellias, dogwoods and similar plants. There are almost no discoveries of "entirely new plants," however. So if you see an "amazing" or "fabulous new plant" advertised, check before you buy.

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Ford tractors, Roseman mowers, West Point aerifying equipment, Lely Fertilizer spreaders, National Triplex mowers, Woods mulchers, and Arps Trenchers will be among the items shown.

Demonstrations will begin at 10 A.M. Lunch will be served at 12 noon.



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