

## PALMER WINS PRESTIGIOUS NEW GOLF AWARD

Arnold Palmer has been named the first recipient of the "Old Tom" Morris Award, established recently by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) to satisfy the need for a significant international award that would help identify with the true heritage and traditional founding of the game.

"Old Tom" Morris, one of golf's first greats, was a greenkeeper, golf professional, club and ball maker, golf course architect and accomplished player who won four British Open Championships between 1861 and 1867.

While at the Royal and Ancient, St. Andrews, Scotland, "Old Tom" acquired worldwide fame, boosting the popularity of golf through his role as the first superstar of golf—as detailed in the November 1982 issue of GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT magazine, GCSAA's official monthly publication.

Selection of Palmer as the first recipient of such a significant award was an easy task, according to GCSAA President, James A. Wyllie. "Besides being a superstar like 'Old Tom', Palmer has displayed a continuing, selfless commitment to golf and furthered the welfare of the game in a manner exemplified by 'Old Tom' Morris", Wyllie said last week.

Palmer, himself the son of a greenkeeper, has made clubs and balls and designed golf courses in the course of a career studded with more than 70 tournament victories. His contributions to the popularity and welfare of the game are, according to Wyllie, "immeasurable."

Palmer is slated to accept the award at GCSAA's 54th International Turfgrass Conference and Show in Atlanta, GA, on February 24, 1983.

GCSAA, the sponsor of this premier international event in turfgrass management, is a professional association 5,500 strong representing golf course superintendents in the United States, Canada and 25 foreign countries.

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The Musser Foundation Board of Directors has been enhanced by the appointment of two prominent international figures.

Dr. J. J. Murray, turfgrass scientist at the USDA facility at Beltsville, MD, has accepted the appointment. Recently he explored several Asian countries searching for new zoysia cultivars. The new germ plasm will enhance his search for plants that are resistant to many stresses.

John Souter, turfgrass consultant, will represent the United Kingdom from his base in Perthshire, Scotland, he will bring to us his vast experience in turfgrass in another clime. John regularly attends important functions in the U.S. and he expects to be with us in Atlanta. His colorful highland attire draws attention from every side.

**Fred V. Grau, President  
The Musser Foundation**

### **NATIONAL CHEMSEARCH CORP.**

222 South Central Ave.  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

## IN YOUR GARDEN PROTECT TREES FROM WINTER INJURY NOW

The fact that winters are tough on trees and shrubs is an understatement. James A. Fizzell, University of Illinois Horticulturist in Cook County says, this summer we saw the effects of the winter as plants expired from delayed reaction to damage. Plants girdled by rodents, or with roots injured by excess water or low temperatures, can live quite awhile before the stored foods are used up. Then when least expected, they die.

You can avoid many of the winter problems by preparing now. To reduce damage from mice, remove all grass and weeds around the trunks of the trees and shrubs. Use hand clippers on vegetation you can't cut with a lawn mower. Be sure not to nick the bark. Unmowed vegetation provides cover for field mice which eat the inner bark of trunks and roots, frequently killing fruit trees.

Rabbits eat the bark off the trunk and any branches within reach, particularly on young fruit trees. However, Fizzell notes, they do not bother older trees which have developed heavy outer bark. Either chemical repellants or mechanical barriers are recommended for protection from rabbits. Spray the repellant on trunk and lower branches as recommended on the label. Chemicals are more effective in protecting shrubs than mechanical barriers. For trees, use chicken wire or hardware cloth to form a cylinder around the trunk. The cylinder should be at least two inches from the trunk and high enough to provide protection in the event of heavy snow cover. Or, wrap the trunk with newspapers, waterproof paper, or tree wrap.

Wrapping the trunk will also help protect trees from winter sun scald, says Fizzell, and will benefit even older trees not subject to rabbit damage.

Trunk wrapping does not keep the trunk warmer, but provides shade from the winter sun which could elevate the temperatures of the inner bark to the point where it begins growing even in mid-winter. When the sun sets, temperatures rapidly drop to freezing or lower; this causes ice crystals to form in the inner bark, killing it. Such injury usually occurs on the south or southwest side of the trunk, the area most likely to be warmed by winter sunlight, and may not become apparent until the next summer. Maples and other thin bark varieties are very susceptible to this kind of injury. Some nurseries are investigating white paint on trunks as protection from winter sun damage.

Remove tree wraps when growth starts in the spring as they provide cover for insects which may injure the trunk during the growing season.

Of major concern in winter survival is damage, says Fizzell. Fill in low areas so water will not stand around the stems and roots during the winter months. Divert down spouts so runoff doesn't collect in shrub beds or around shade trees. Wet conditions are ideal for development of disease organisms which attack the plants at the soil line and kill them. Roots in standing water can suffocate and rot away.

It is equally important that evergreens and newly planted trees and shrubs go into winter adequately watered. Plants standing in water drown, but those in parched, dry soils won't survive either. Roots continue to grow as long as soils remain unfrozen. Evergreens lose water from their leaves on bright winter days.

**James A. Fizzell, Sr. Extension Adviser  
Horticulture**