

(Contour Mowing cont'd.)

average width of the fairway can vary from 30 to 50 yards based on the skill of the golfer hitting to each specific area.

When a club decides to revise its mowing patterns, it needs to inform and educate its members and introduce the changes slowly. The golfers' scores will no doubt go up, but the golf course will become more delightful for all classes of golfers as it is studied and played.

Editor's note: A native of Wisconsin, Bob Lohmann received a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from the University of Wisconsin — Madison in 1974. His experience both on the drawing board and in the field are indicative of his qualifications as a golf course planner. Mr. Lohmann has been actively involved in designing, building and remodeling golf courses for the past ten years. He is a registered Landscape Architect and a member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects and the American Society of Landscape Architects.

"ENJOYMENT"

To Mow around a Tree, You planted years ago,
And enjoy It's progress, as It grows.
It's gained another inch in breadth,
Steadily climbing towards the Sky,
Providing shelter for Our Feathered Friends,
Beauty, as well as Shade, for You and I.
Escaped Pestilence, all kinds,
Lightning, Animal's and Insect Woes.
How about Mower Blight?
The Good Lord only knows.

Kenneth R. Zanzig

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Pruning is a Wintertime Garden Chore

Mid-winter is an excellent time for pruning trees and shrubs. There are some real advantages to pruning during winter. Plants are dormant so there is no bleeding. There is less likelihood of disease transmission. The deciduous plants are bare so the branching can easily be seen.

First a word of caution. Spring flowering shrubs and trees have already set flower buds. Any pruning on these plants should be restricted to repair so that flowers are not sacrificed.

Inspect your plants to develop a plan. Note the natural shape of the plants. This shape should be preserved during the pruning. Look for broken branches, branches which cross each other, and overgrown stems.

Prune multi-stem trees to keep the center open and prevent smaller stems from being crowded out by a larger stem. Try to select and maintain several well spaced branches of similar size. Remove branches growing into the center on the tree and crossing other branches, and bottom suckers.

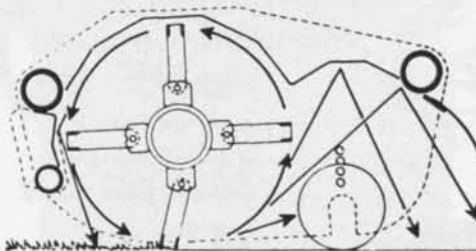
Large trees present a special problem and pruning should be restricted to removal of broken branches. Contrary to popular opinion, severe pruning is not necessary for a tree and may actually be quite harmful. In any case, major pruning of large trees is dangerous and should be left to professional arborists.

Pruning is an important part of the culture of ornamental plants if properly done. Don't try to overpower plants with pruning. Use judicious pruning to guide the natural growth of your plants.

James A. Fizzell, Sr. Ext. Adviser
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