

## A USGA Green Section Regional Conference will be held:

Thursday, March 10, 1994 — 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Meridian Hills Country Club  
Indianapolis, Indiana

Thursday, March 24, 1994 — 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Best Western/SteepleGate Inn  
Davenport, Iowa

The program will include varied golf-related topics of interest to Superintendents, Course Officials, Golf Professionals, etc. For more information contact:

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## Flowering Shrubs Can Be Forced Indoors Now

by James Fizzell

This year, spring can come early to your home. How? Just snip some branches from your flowering shrubs and force them into bloom. By now many shrubs have flower buds that are formed and ready to bloom. There has been sufficient cold weather to break dormancy and all the buds require to burst open is warmth and moisture.

This procedure is quite simple. Anyone, even apartment dwellers, can succeed with this project. Start by selecting branches loaded with flower buds. You can identify the flower buds because they are more plump and more round than leaf buds. When cutting, select branches that have curves or bends that will create interesting blooming arrangements.

Don't worry about slanting cuts or shredded stems. Ordinary cuts work fine.

Submerge the branches overnight in a deep pail or tub of water, or wrap them in a damp cloth and put them in a plastic bag for a few days. This moistening and soaking loosens the bud scales and helps them to readily fall away as the flowers expand.

After moistening operation is completed, stand the branches in a pail of water in a place where you can control the temperature. Sixty to 70° is best for the developing flowers. Although the branches will force at higher temperatures, the color, size, and keeping quality of the blooms will be reduced. For this reason, it is also best to keep the branches out of direct sun.

Generally, plants that normally bloom early are easiest to force indoors. Also the closer to the natural bloom time you cut the branches, the faster they will open.

Try some things other than the old stand-bys of forsythia and pussy willow. Red maple has beautiful, red flowers. Catkins are flowers too, so try alder, birch, or hazel. Foliage of some trees is spectacular when forced indoors. Try horse chestnut, birch or oak.

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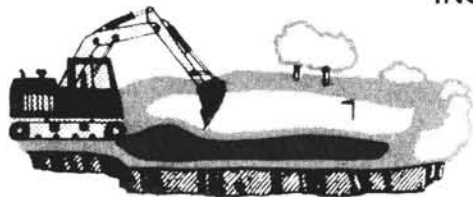
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(Flowering Shrubs continued)

The following chart will give you an idea of how long it takes to coax flowers on branches of trees and shrubs. Start some every 2 weeks of continuous displays until spring.

Shadblow (amelanchier).....	1 week
Forsythia.....	1 week
Redbud.....	2 weeks
Pussy Willow.....	2 weeks
Privet (from an unpruned bush).....	2 weeks
Spicebush.....	2 weeks
Magnolia.....	3 weeks
Deutzia.....	3 weeks
Flowering Almond.....	3 weeks
Honeysuckle.....	3 weeks
Bridal Wreath Spirea.....	4 weeks
Flowering Almond.....	4 weeks
Flowering Quince.....	4 weeks
Lilac.....	4 weeks
Cherry.....	4 weeks
Crabapple.....	4 weeks
Pear.....	4 weeks
Peach.....	4 weeks

## Snow Time Safety

by Marty Baumann

So, the ground is frozen and all the real golfers are heading south to play for the winter. You have closed your gates and put your course to bed. Now you, your assistant and your mechanic must see if once more you all can survive those long winter months locked in your cold, tiny maintenance garage without killing each other.

Well, if you spend a few minutes right now planning ahead, the only injury in your garage this winter will probably not be an accident.

Before using the tools associated with winter maintenance like grinding, lifting, rebuilding, or painting, have your mechanic check them out to be sure they still comply with all original safety standards they came with.

Sit down with everybody in your shop who will be using the equipment and go over the operation and safety practices. It's also a good idea to use this time to check out some of the items you take for granted the rest of the year. Check out your furnace, portable heaters, hot water heaters, air compressor, hydraulic lift, and all your welding equipment.

Also, I would take the time to go over all the safety procedures with your reel and bedknife grinding.

Finally, while you are buried in your office doing your budget and your bids for next year, how about setting up your safety program. Pick a topic for each month to discuss over lunch with your men. Order some new safety signs for your shop. Set up a safety contest for your crew to start in the spring.

Keep in mind that your crew will only take safety as seriously as you do. If it's a priority in your mind and in your habits, you will have a crew that works safer, and will have safe working habits for a lifetime.

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