

(Have You Been a Host Club continued)

1983

April - Deer Creek G.C.
May - Bon Vivant C.C.
June - Pinecrest C.C.
July - Palatine G.C.
August - Ridge C.C.
September - St. Charles C.C.
October - Kishwaukee C.C.

1982

April - Flossmoor C.C.
May - Kankakee C.C.
June - Mariott Lincolnshire
Resort
July - Randall Oaks G.C.
August - Skokie C.C.
September - Arlington G.C.
October - Spring Valley G.C.

1981

April - Elmhurst C.C.
May - Deer Creek G.C.
June - Bon Vivant C.C.
July - Sportsman G.C.
August - Village Greens of
Woodridge
September - Playboy G.C.
October - St. Andrews G.C.

1980

April - Woodridge G.C.
May - Riverside C.C.
June - Ridgemoor C.C.
July - Medinah C.C.
August - Randall Oaks G.C.
September - Shore Acres C.C.
October - Woodmar C.C.

Prune Many Trees and Shrubs Now

by James A. Fizzell

The end of winter is an excellent time for pruning many trees and shrubs. There are some real advantages to pruning during winter. Plants are dormant at this time. There is less likelihood of disease transmission. The deciduous plants are bare so the branching can easily be seen.

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. Once you know what needs attention, sharpen your saw and shears and begin.

Prune certain shade trees, shrubs, most fruit trees, grapes, bramble fruits, and hedges, to help them grow better. You may prune the following plant types now: deciduous shade trees, flowering trees such as crab apple or plum fruit trees, grape vines, and small fruits such as blackberry and blueberry. For all these groups, start by pruning out all diseased, weak, or damaged branches. On trees (shade and fruit) and shrubs, look especially for branches that are rubbing or girdling each other and remove the weakest branch. Remove branches that may be endangering power lines or windows. On small flowering trees, only remove what is necessary to maintain good vigor and shape.

DO NOT prune flowering shrubs such as lilac, mock orange, or forsythia until after they finish flowering. Evergreen shrubs, trees, and hedges should not be pruned until early summer.

Larger overgrown deciduous shrubs can be ideally pruned at this time of year. While maintenance trimming can be done during the growing season to remove small amounts of current growth, major pruning to renew a shrub or to reduce the overall size of a shrub. This is best done during the dormant season.

Plants such as honeysuckle, privet, snowberry, or Indian currant can be pruned down to 6" shrubs at ground level. This method is called rejuvenation and is used to regrow old unsightly or overgrown plants. The rejuvenated plant regrows from the base and essentially results in a completely new shrub.

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(Prune Trees, Shrubs Now continued)

Removing branches of a honeysuckle is also beneficial in reducing the number of overwintering Russian aphids. This insect sucks plant sap and distorts foliage which in turn ruins the visual appeal of the honeysuckle. Chemical control of this insect is limited, therefore cultural control will at least help reduce aphid populations.

Other shrubs such as arrowwood viburnum, weigela, deutzia, and dogwood can be thinned out by using a method called renewal pruning. Remove 1/4 - 1/3 of the oldest stems each year, all the way down to the crown, to stimulate growth of new shoots from the base of the plant. This opens the plant to light and air.

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. Bottom suckers should also be removed.

Large trees present a 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.

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(Lightning Protection continued)

Since golf course superintendents are not required to be experts in lightning protection how does one go about providing this necessary protection. Consulting engineers or electrical contractors are a possible source but most do not have the special expertise required to recommend the special devices for each specific application. The only known source in the Chicago area is Chicago Turf, the local Toro irrigation distributor who has been trained and equipped to provide a complete protection package. They will make a site survey of the complete facility and recommend the exact equipment to provide a complete protection package for your entire irrigation control system.

About the author: Joe Becker is the owner of D & B Sales Associates, 140 Glengarry Dr., Geneva, IL 60134. He is also a member of the Lightning Protection Institute. D & B specializes in power protection equipment.

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