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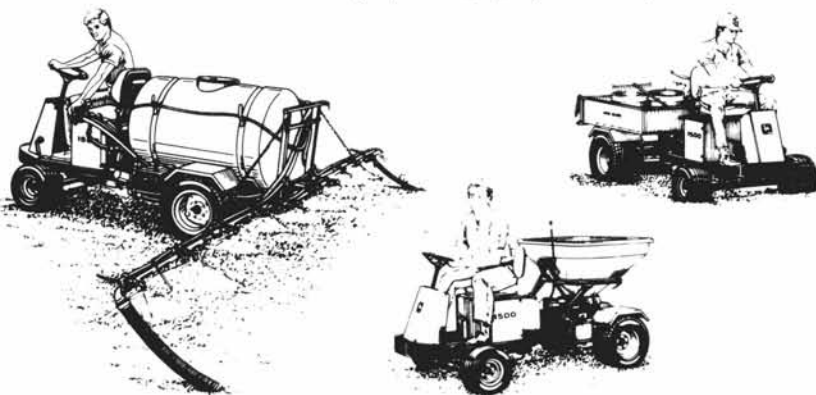
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Golf Industry Invaded by Japanese Investors

TRUMBULL, CONN. — According to a Special Report in GOLF DIGEST's September issue, Japanese investors are quickly becoming an integral part of the golf industry in the United States. Not only are Japanese companies major sponsors on the U.S. golf circuit, but they are a growing factor in the golf equipment industry, having recently bought a controlling interest in the venerable Ben Hogan Company.

The biggest surprise, however, is that Japan has suddenly become a major real-estate holder of American golf properties. "Japanese interests own 18 of the 47 golf courses in Hawaii," reports GOLF DIGEST writer Robert Green. And it doesn't stop there. Japanese investors are buying up courses around the country. La Costa resort, the Valencia, Calabasas and Riviera Country Club in southern California as well as Grenelefe in Florida and Snapfinger Woods Country Club in Decatur, GA., are only a few of the clubs Japanese investors have purchased.

According to Green, there are three primary reasons for this Japanese buying frenzy: the yen has doubled against the American dollar, U.S. taxes are less punitive than Japan's and the scarcity of land in Japan places it at a very high premium. "It costs \$1 million to join many Tokyo clubs, and the average is \$100,000," reports Green. It is simply cheaper for the Japanese to invest their money in the United States. "Paying \$108 million for a 160-acre country club would not seem quite so extravagant because the \$250,000 initiation fee would be considered a bargain to a rich Japanese businessman who could easi-

ly afford to pay a lifetime of trans-Pacific airfares and hotel bills to use the club," writes Green.

As the report points out, it is easy to see how the "PGA" in PGA Tour could stand for Payment Guaranteed in Asia.

Prayer Breakfast 10th Anniversary Celebration Rosey Grier, Guest Speaker

The G.C.S.C. Prayer Breakfast committee is happy to announce that Rosey Grier will be the guest speaker at the 10th annual Prayer Breakfast gathering in Anaheim.

In conjunction with G.C.S.A.A.'s 60th year celebration we want to make this a very special event.

Mr. Grier is known as the gentle giant, taken from the title of his autobiography. His awards and professional achievements are almost endless. Professional football, acting, public relations and author are just some of his professional business accomplishments.

At present Rosey heads up "Are You Committed", a non-profit corporation that he founded for the benefit of helping underprivileged young people.

With all of these credits, awards, financial gains, and more, Rosey's life was not complete. Come and hear his story on fulfillment.

The Prayer Breakfast is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 12, 1989 at 7:30 - 9:00 A.M. Please watch for location. Be sure to invite a friend to come and hear this extraordinary man.

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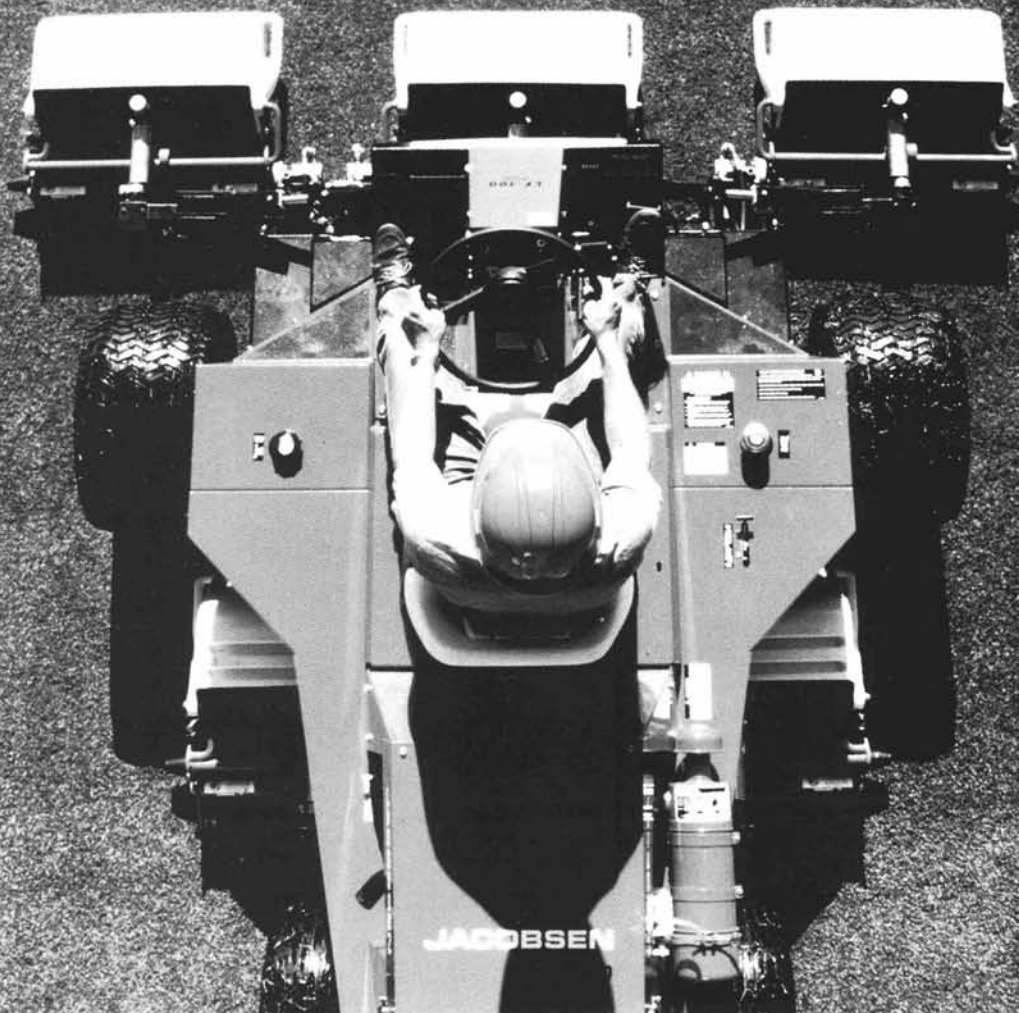
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Upcoming Events — Mark Your Calendar

December 6, 7, 8 — NCTE at Pheasant Run, St. Charles, IL

January 3 & 4 — MAGCS/GCSAA Seminars at Pheasant Run

January 9 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Arrowhead C.C.

January 16 & 17 — Michigan Turfgrass Conference, Lansing

January 23, 24, 25 — Midwest Regional Turf Foundation Seminar, Indianapolis



David Ward accepting the "Ray Gerber Editorial Award" from Fred Opperman, Editor

David Ward, Two Time Winner of the "Ray Gerber Editorial Award"

Dave Ward is the 1988 winner of the "Ray Gerber Editorial Award" with his article, "Flower Bed Preparation & Maintenance." Dave was the winner the first year the award was given in 1983 with his article, "Sand Topdressing: Something Old, Something New, Mostly Borrowed, Never Blue."

This award has been given yearly in honor of Ray Gerber, who served as Editor of "The Bull Sheet" for 11 years and set the standard for what our newsletter is today. Ray was three times President of the MAGCS, President of the GCSAA in 1950, recipient of the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award in 1975 and a Superintendent at Glen Oak Country Club for 34 years.

To be eligible for this award, you must be a superintendent and write an article that is first published in "The Bull Sheet." The winning article is chosen from a panel of judges from the turf industry. This year's judges were: Mike Nass, President of MAGCS; Dr. Tom Fermanian, University of Illinois; Warren Bidwell, retired superintendent and world-wide speaker; Dr. Randy Kane, CDGA and University of Illinois; and Fred Opperman, CGCS, Editor.

59th Annual Michigan Turfgrass Conference, Januar 16-18, 1989. Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, Lansing, MI. Contact: Michael Saffel, Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824. Phone 517-355-9022.

Bill Kraft reports that his good golfing buddy and our old friend Ben Coker has had his right knee replaced with an artificial joint in late October. Maybe Ben is trying to keep up with Joe Canale and his bio-ionic body. We all wish Ben a speedy recovery and hope this helps his golf handicap next year.

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It was great going to another Midwest Clinic held at Medinah C.C. There is something about having our clinic by itself and having it held at Medinah C.C. that isn't the same when it is held elsewhere. Congratulations to Joel Purpur and his committee for a job well done on putting the program together. Having the assistants speak, (Rick Bowden, Bob O'Link and Mark Bobb, Barrington) was excellent. I also thought that the "Reflections of The First Year Superintendents" was interesting and humorous on their various trials and tribulations as told by Jerry Cooper of Lincolnshire. John Gurke of Bartlett Hills and Dave Blomquist of Naperville. Well done fellows.

Ms. Pat Sanders from Penn State gave an interesting and enlightening talk on "Pesticide Resistance" and how the academic community disagrees with each other on some subjects.

Dr. James Watson gave another of his enlightening and educational talks. It seemed that this one was filled with a lot of quotes. Some of the ones that I picked up were "Be careful of gimmicks and gadgets in the market place today"; "Turfgrasses are one of the most effective filtration systems for ground water"; "Past thirty years Turfgrass has improved more rapidly than most other industries in the same period"; "Look for the application of sonar and laser to come to our industry"; and lastly, "We do a tremendous job of talking to ourselves (between superintendents and within the green industry), but a tremendously poor job of talking to others".

The Editor would like to apologize for somehow not placing the Lemont Paving ad in the October and November issues of our newsletter. Please readers, do not forget that Ray Murphy and his sons do a superior job of paving on the golf course.

Remember that the MAGCS will have a hospitality suite at the NCTE. Ask any director for the room number at the meeting. The suite will be open only for the night of December 7th.

"Rejuvenation"

December brings the "Big Sleep" Dormancy,
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But the entire Season, Tame or Severe.

Kenneth R. Zanzig

Planting for Survival

by James A. Fizzell, Univ. of Ill. Extension

Nurserymen make every effort to produce sturdy, healthy plant material. The fact that so many plants fail to survive on the job site suggests that there is more involved than first meets the eye. Plant selection, planting technique and after care are equally important.

Plant selection involves selection of varieties, as well as selection of the producer and the individual plants themselves.

Varietal selection is often made by the architect or designer of the particular job. Usually these people are from local firms and are aware of requirements or limitation of the plants. Sometimes the designer is the building architect or a firm from a remote part of the country, and varieties are selected entirely by looks or personal prejudice. For instance, Pin Oak and Red Maple are regularly specified for planting on alkaline reclaimed sites. They do not tolerate alkalinity.

As a professional landscape contractor, you are aware of the conditions in your area and of the troublesome plants to be avoided. You can suggest alternatives to your client which will assure satisfaction.

For large jobs, bids for plant material are often circulated nationwide. There are excellent nurseries throughout the country, but selection should be made from a producer in the same climatic zone who is growing on a soil similar to that at the planting site. Examples where this rule hasn't been followed abound. We drown material with sand balls planted in heavy silty clay loam soils. We see red pines from south New Jersey dying when planted in Chicagoland, about the same latitude, but at least two climatic zones different. *Cercis canadensis* is native from Georgia to the Canadian border. But the plants in Dixie are certainly not the same as those up north. If you select material from a nursery in a climatic zone similar to yours, you at least know the stock has survived several seasons in the field and should tolerate your climate.

Soils in most new developments are thoroughly disturbed, compact and poorly drained. In such conditions plants have a difficult time surviving because of excess soil moisture.

The common practice is to put stones in the bottom of the planting hole for drainage, set the plant, fill the hole with soil mixed with peat moss and water regularly. This often results in a drowned plant. This system creates a situation in which water runs into the loose soil faster than it can be absorbed by the surrounding soil. The hole fills with water.

A considerable amount of research has shown that the interface where the mixed soil meets the unmodified soil becomes an unsurmountable barrier to root development.

For proper planting, dig the planting hole large enough to accommodate the ball of the plant and set the plant somewhat higher, with the ball exposed 10-20 percent. Backfill the hole and soak thoroughly. Do not modify the soil placed back into the planting hole. If it is necessary to modify the soil, dig the hole as large as possible, and then make sure the soil changes gradually from the modified to the natural soil. Where rock is used in the bottom of a hole because of very poor soil or no subsurface drainage, provide tile or a french drain so that water drains away from the hole. In such a case, a dry well next to the planting hole may be necessary. Or, if the site has a steep grade, tile may be laid to daylight farther down the slope or into a storm sewer. In severe cases, raised beds or hill plan-



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tings that allow for plants to be set above grade may be the only solutions.

Caring for the newly set plants is often turned over to the property owner, and at a time critical to the survival of the plants. The plants must get adequate, but not excessive, water.

Each plant is an individual and each planting hole may be quite different, especially in a large development. Considerable skill may be needed to determine the amount and frequency of watering needed by each plant.

Sometimes the only way to tell if a plant is too dry or too wet is to dig the hole next to the ball and take a look. Again, do not assume that because one plant in a development drowned, that all the plants that die are too wet. Since the soils in new developments are disturbed there is no way to tell what is underground. Within the same parking lot, for instance, we have found island planters underlain with sand, concrete, railroad ties and yellow clay. They all resulted in dead plants, but for entirely different reasons. Don't be caught generalizing, based on single observation.

Finally, modern landscape techniques allow moving of plant material nearly all year. This doesn't mean plants like such treatment, only that they tolerate it.

If you are in the habit of moving plants out of season, and in full leaf, take the extra precaution such as wilt proofing, tarping, syringing the foliage in hot water, etc. to make sure the plants don't suffer. Because this care is costly, be sure to build it into your contract. And be sure your client knows that plants moved in high stress times of the season need extra attention. If the client is unwilling to provide the care or unwilling to pay you to do it, it may be wise to postpone planting until the plants have a better chance for survival.

Credit: OGA Notes, Spring 1987

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Jerry Cooper, Supt. Lincolnshire C.C.



Al Fierst "Clippings Disposal on Fairways"



John Gurke, Bartlett Hills C.C.



Rick Bowden receiving plaque for his talk on "Fairway Aerification Methods" from Don Spiers, Moderator



John Aquino, Murray & Tuttel



Dave Blomquist, Naperville C.C.



Mark Bobb, Assistant at Barrington discussing water pH



Ray Schmitz, "Computer Usage in Golf Course Management"



Dr. Pat Sanders, Penn State

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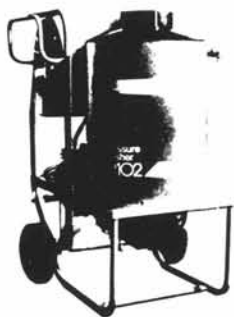
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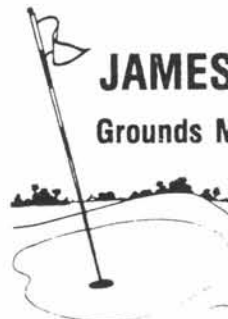
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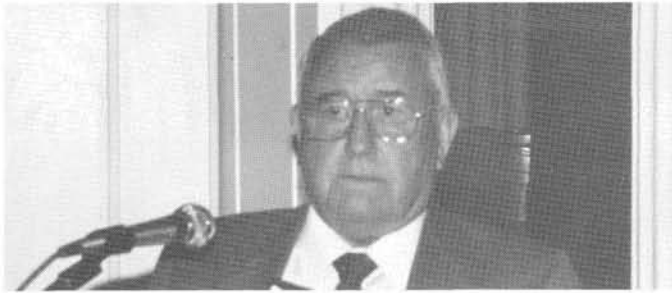
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Dr. James Watson, The Toro Company

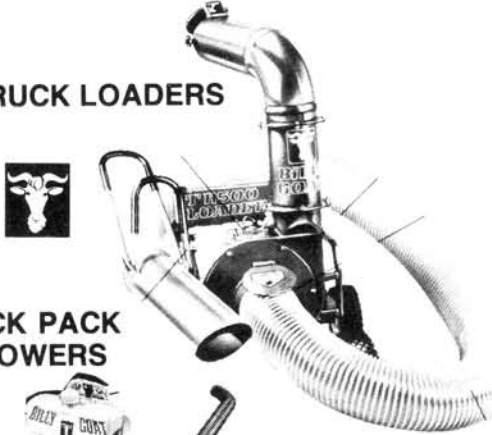


Fred Opperman, Editor "and we were flying 25 feet above this glacier ..."

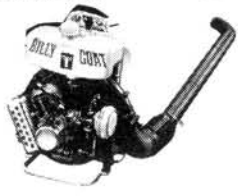
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Care of Live Christmas Trees

by James A. Fizzell, Sr. Ext. Adviser
Horticulture

The trend in recent years is that more and more homeowners like to have a live Christmas tree, a growing tree with roots.

It is recommended that you take these steps in order to get the best results and pleasure from your live tree.

First, dig the hole where you anticipate planting the tree, preferably before the ground is frozen. Mulch the hole to prevent freezing too far down. Keep the soil from the hole where it will not freeze, and can be used when you plant your live tree.

Buy your tree from a local nurseryman or supplier. Plan to keep the tree indoors for as short a time as possible. Make the change in temperature by a series of graduations ... perhaps one day in the garage, one day in a cool basement and then into the room where you plan to set it up and decorate it. Repeat this same process in reverse when you take it outdoors.

It is usually better if the suppliers pots the tree for you. A balled and burlapped evergreen tree should be placed in a porous pot, but keep the pot small so it will be inconspicuous. Try the use of a plastic antidesiccant spray on the foliage before bringing the tree into the house.

Water the tree as you would a house plant. Water frequently and thoroughly. Never let the soil get either dried out or muddy.

Keep temperatures as cool as possible, especially at night. Be sure the tree does not receive direct sunlight, even through a window. Never place the tree near a fireplace or against an operating radiator or other source of heat.

As soon as possible, plant the tree outdoors in the hole you prepared. Use unfrozen soil in order to be sure it is firm around the roots of the tree. Be sure to mulch well.

Soak the soil thoroughly after planting to settle it around the soil ball, and every month or so if the temperature remains mild and there is no rain. Watering will be necessary during droughty periods next summer, too.

It is fun to have a live Christmas tree especially if this year marks a special event such as a wedding, a birth of a new family member, or arrival of a new grandchild. Use the tree indoors at Christmas and then use it outdoors as an evergreen in your foundation planting or as a specimen tree where it will remind you of the Joy of Christmas 1988.

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