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(Keeping Pace continued)

an acre per hour; vehicles dedicated solely to turf spraying, with application rates controlled by computer; water injection aerifiers; rotary mowers that can mow fifteen foot swaths and still maintain their trimability. We now have automated feed reel grinding equipment that really transforms the mechanic into a machining technician. It is not uncommon for the superintendent of today to rely on a computer in his office to perform tasks that range from controlling the irrigation system, to creating budget reports, to reminding him when to reorder gasoline.

Our friend who was on the edge of his profession with his roller base sprinklers would gasp at the complexity of our business in the nineties. It seems like we have come so far, and we have. But what lies ahead? It is expected that advances in computer chip technology will explode in the nineties and spill into all areas of our lives like never before.

How will this effect the greens industry? We cannot be sure. But we can be sure of one thing. The greens superintendent that monitors the changes and adjusts accordingly will be in position to capitalize on these changes and use them to his advantage. That is his challenge. The superintendent who does not, must be forever contented with his "circle of green."

Legislators Explore Local Nurseries

by Richard Theidel, Hinsdale Nurseries, Inc.

More than 50 Illinois legislators and agriculture and nursery professionals recently embarked on a tour to explore issues facing plant-and crop-producing operations.

Lawmakers and growers visited three sites on September 14, including Hinsdale Nurseries' Yorkville Farm field nursery. Visitors received an overview of the 425-acre facility's propagation, growing, irrigation and harvesting operations.

"In a sense, we can be considered farmers," Hinsdale Nursery General Manager Ken Doty told the tour participants. "We work with and have a love for the soil just as a farmer does."

Growing 182 varieties of trees, shrubs and evergreens on one of Illinois' oldest nurseries requires a multi-year investment of time and money. Doty said, explaining that some trees take 10 years to reach salability. "We're trying to predict far down the road what our market's going to be," he said. "This is not a short-term business."

Environmental issues have affected the green industry as well as food-growing operations, Doty told the crowd, who earlier on the tour visited an agri-chemical facility and a production farm. "We have to comply with the myriad of federal and state regulations like all other growing trades," he said.

"From a legislator's standpoint, the tour was extremely insightful and worthwhile" said State Representative Tom Cross (R-84th), one of a dozen lawmakers who participated in the tour. "It was good to actually go out to a site to see the issues and concerns every nursery operator encounters."

State Representative Brent Hassert (R-83rd) agreed the tour was eye-opening. "I don't think many of the legislators realized how much goes into producing plant material."

The tour was sponsored by the Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois Nurserymen's Association, Growmark Inc. and American Cyanamid Co.

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Leaves, Limbs, Needles & Boughs



by Fred D. Opperman

I didn't mean to leave everyone hanging on my tree trivia question from October, it was an oversight on my part not to include it. The question was, "What is the most common wood used for the manufacture of quality heads for golf clubs? The correct answer is Persimmon. This month's question: What wood is used in the manufacture of nearly 80% of wooden tool handles?

I've chosen a pine for this month's topic. My favorite pine is the White Pine and my second favorite is Pinus nigra — Austrian Pine. In the Chicagoland area one can see many beautiful Austrian pines. Some of my favorite Austrians have multiple trunks that are very attractive. I think the nurseries should cut off the leaders of some of their trees when young and let the tree produce multiple leaders for that character tree of the future.

Leaves: In pairs persisting about 4 years, very dense on the branchlets, stiff, straight or curved, 4 to 6" long, 1/16" to 1/12" wide. Sharp to the touch. My touch test to determine if it is a Red or Austrian pine is to hold a clump of needles in one hand and use the palm of the other hand to see how sharp they are. Austrian pines will hurt the palm of the hand, where Red pines do not.

Buds: Ovoid to oblong or cylindrical, 1/2 to 1" long.

Bark: Dark brown furrows, usually with gray or gray-brown mottled ridges. Quite attractive.

Size: 50 to 60' in height and 20 to 40' in width. Some have been known to grow to 100' or more.

Rate: Medium, 35 to 50' after 20 years.

Culture: Hardy tree that withstands city conditions very well, very tolerant of soils, resists heat and drought, tolerates fairly heavy clay and alkaline soils, tolerates salt to some degree.

Tree Trivia answer: Hickory.

New Listing for TGIF

TGIF (Turfgrass Information File), the industry's largest single source of turfgrass information, announces the creation of a new listing containing members of the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA).

In the future, anyone who accesses TGIF will see the architect's directory as an option on the main screen, and will be able to obtain information about individual participating members. In addition to their names and addresses, TGIF will contain a listing of the courses that they have worked on.

Information from TGIF is available in hard copy, or via a modem, and can be searched by author name, subject, etc. The architects' directory may be searched by name or address. For additional information about TGIF, or the architects' directory, please contact Nancy Donati, Medinah Country Club, Medinah Road, Medinah, IL 60157-9653, 708/773-1700, ext. 254, or Peter Cookingham.

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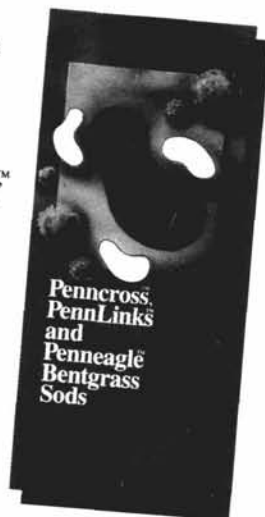
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State Rankings for Participation in the U.S.	
(As of Dec. 31, 1992)	
Participation Rate (Percentage of residents age 12 and over who play golf)	Number of Golfers (Age 12 and over in nearest thousand)
1. North Dakota 20.2%	1. California 2,552,000
2. Wisconsin 20.0%	2. New York 1,620,000
3. Minnesota 19.0%	3. Illinois 1,487,000
4. Utah 18.8%	4. Pennsylvania 1,422,000
5. Iowa 18.1%	5. Michigan 1,373,000
6. Montana 17.9%	6. Texas 1,276,000
7. Nebraska 17.7%	7. Ohio 1,224,000
8. Michigan 17.5%	8. Wisconsin 1,164,000
9. Illinois 16.5%	9. Florida 991,000
10. Arizona 15.7%	10. Minnesota 743,000
11. Wyoming 15.3%	11. Massachusetts 669,000
12. Ohio 15.2%	12. North Carolina 664,000
13. Idaho 14.2%	13. Virginia 570,000
14. Indiana 14.1%	14. Indiana 545,000
15. Kansas 14.0%	15. Washington 520,000
16. New Mexico 13.8%	16. New Jersey 481,000
17T. Colorado 13.5%	17. Missouri 471,000
17T. Connecticut 13.5%	18. Maryland 463,000
19T. Missouri 13.4%	19. Arizona 441,000
19T. New Hampshire 13.4%	20. Iowa 436,000
19T. Washington 13.4%	21. Oregon 414,000
22T. Massachusetts 13.2%	22. Colorado 377,000
22T. Rhode Island 13.2%	23. Kentucky 372,000
24T. Nevada 12.9%	24. Georgia 364,000
24T. Oregon 12.9%	25. Connecticut 344,000
26. South Dakota 12.0%	26. Tennessee 334,000
27. Pennsylvania 11.9%	27. South Carolina 312,000
28. New York 11.8%	28. Nebraska 297,000
29. North Carolina 11.7%	29. Oklahoma 285,000
30. California 11.6%	30. Alabama 235,000
31T. Florida 11.3%	31. West Virginia 230,000
31T. South Carolina 11.3%	32T. Kansas 223,000
33T. Kentucky 10.6%	32T. Louisiana 223,000
33T. Texas 10.6%	34. Utah 213,000
35. Virginia 10.2%	35. New Mexico 139,000
36. New Jersey 9.9%	36. Montana 136,000
37. Oklahoma 9.9%	37T. Mississippi 119,000
38. Maryland 9.8%	37T. North Dakota 119,000
39. Delaware 9.7%	39. Arkansas 116,000
40. West Virginia 9.6%	40T. Nevada 107,000
41. Maine 9.4%	40T. Rhode Island 107,000
42. Vermont 9.3%	42T. New Hampshire 104,000
43. Tennessee 8.6%	42T. Idaho 104,000
44. Georgia 8.5%	44. Maine 102,000
45. Alabama 7.4%	45. South Dakota 74,000
46. Mississippi 5.8%	46. Wyoming 72,000
47. District of Columbia 5.7%	47. Delaware 69,000
48. Arkansas 5.6%	48. Vermont 40,000
49. Louisiana 5.3%	49. District of Columbia 25,000
U.S. Average 11.9%	U.S. Total 24,800,000

(Alaska and Hawaii not listed due to insufficient data)

Source: Golf Participation in the U.S. / 1993 Edition

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