

LITERATURE

**EARTH-SAFE  
DISEASE REMEDIES**

POWNAI, Vt. — Don't be deceived by its title, the new book *"The Gardener's Guide to Plant Diseases"* contains a number of techniques and tips for dealing with problems encountered on the golf course.

From airborne to plant pathogens, from viruses to bacteria, author Barbara Pleasant covers a gamut of problems — and offers "earth-safe remedies." While turfgrass problems are not on her menu, many horticultural concerns are.

Each chapter begins with a general discussion of the "culprits," followed by an alphabetical listing of diseases associated with them.

The book is available in paperback for \$12.95 at bookstores, or from the publisher for \$14.90, by contacting Storey Communications, Inc., P.O. Box 445, Pownal, Vt. 05261; 800-441-5700.

**SEED-TO-BLOOM SIMPLIFIED**

POWNAI, Vt. — From abronia to zinnia, author Eileen Powell has filled in the blanks on sowing, germinating, planting, maintaining and propagating every plant you might landscape a golf course with in a new book from Storey Communications.

*"From Seed to Bloom"* is a comprehensive encyclopedic look at more than 500 annuals, perennials and even herbs. Powell is the proprietor of Secret Gardens Landscaping and lives in Arlington, Va. She holds a certificate in landscape design from George Washington University.

The book is available for \$18.95 in bookstores in paperback, or for \$20.90 from Storey Communications, Inc., P.O. Box 445, Pownal, Vt. 05261; 800-441-5700.

# Leslie comment: A little praise, a little censure

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Pennington absorbed, or the time, energy and frustration.

This was a pure and unadulterated case supporting Lewis H. Lapham's claim that "the supply of government exceeds the demand."

As the epicenter of an earthquake lies at the core of trauma on this earth, so Washington, D.C., is indeed the epicenter of some very queer, tumultuous behavior. We can only hope and pray the new Congress does affect change. It is apparently trying. Witness legislative measures that would require a reasonable cost-benefit ratio before new laws are enacted, and that lawmakers stay clear of bills that would give bureaucrats reign over such workplace issues as ergonomics.

This relates to golf from the clubhouse (remember the states legislating how much space ladies' rooms should have compared to men's rooms?) to the fairway (remember the no-chemical edict to Squaw Creek in California?).

And I recall former Wild Dunes owner David Lucas declaring that our government is "tyranny by legislative fiat and special-interest groups." Lucas, who formed the Council on Property Rights, can attest to the fact that the Louisiana Purchase of 1803 was merely a 19th-century prelude to 20th-century land grabs by enviro-driven government. He needed to go to the U.S. Supreme Court to beat his own state of South Carolina, which had tried to prevent him from building a home on beach-front property — though it was flanked on either side by homes.

Yet, I would not be so unkind as to agree with Honore de Balzac's assessment: "Bureaucracy is a giant mechanism operated by pygmies." Nor would I be so

brazen as to agree with Ludwig van Moses' statement: "Government is the only institution that can take a valuable commodity like paper and make it worthless by applying ink." Well, I'll agree with van Moses.

A how-to-go! to Augusta National superintendent Marsh Benson and Double Eagle Club superintendent Terry Buchen, a GCN contributing editor, for finishing 1-2 in the nation in conditioning, as judged by Golf Digest panelists. GD's Ron Whitten wrote: "Perfection, thy name is Augusta National. But among courses actually open for play during summer months, the surprise is Double Eagle near Columbus, Ohio. How plush is it? They run Stimpmeter tests on the tees."

Wouldn't you like to trade places for a while with Masters Chairman Jack Stevens and Vice Chairman Joe Ford? They are members of both Augusta National and Double Eagle.

Following up in the Top 10 maintenance poll are Pine Valley, Muirfield Village in Ohio, Oakmont, Shadow Creek, Cypress Point, Merion's East Course, Inverness in Ohio and The Quarry at La Quinta, Calif.

Paul, we coulda loved ya'... Oh, well. Mentioning Paul Harvey's comparison of the U.S. Golf Association to the to-

bacco industry, a friend said, "That's like comparing nuns to Nazis."

What's in a name?

Speaking at the Canadian Golf Course Superintendents Association annual conference, Dr. Joe Vargas said: "The biggest mistake we ever made was that we started calling things we used to control plant diseases 'pesticides.' People who use things to control human diseases call them 'medicine.' It doesn't matter that you are controlling a bacterial disease in a person or on a plant, you use a bactericide. It doesn't matter if you are controlling a fungal disease on a plant or on a person, you are using a fungicide. But, unfortunately, when we use them on a plant we call them pesticides... And there is a perception out there that medicines are good and pesticides are bad, when in reality they are oftentimes the same chemistry."

Hints aside from Vargas in Ottawa:

- When putting fertilizer in a sand-type environment, use either a slow-release fertilizer or one that is soluble where you are putting down limited amounts, so that the fibrous root system can pick it up.
- Thatch is very good at preventing pesticide leaching. "Remember all these years we told you thatch was bad?" he said "Well, now we're telling you thatch is good."

## Never stop taking pictures, Lewis says

Continued from previous page

the other with slide film), says slides are ideal for presentations to greens committees, especially if you can get two slide projectors working side-by-side.

A good place to begin or improve your understanding of a camera, as Buchen himself did, is in an introductory photography class at your local college, museum or vocational-technical school.

A typical introductory class, where you might even learn to develop and print your own film (black and white), might meet once or twice a week for about 12 weeks.

You might be surprised at just how much you can learn, and how exciting, and practical, photography can be.

As Buchen says, once you get the camera working, there's practically nothing on or around your golf course that isn't worth taking a picture of. Buchen says he shoots at least one 36-exposure roll of film a week.

And it doesn't have to be all business. Lewis, in Portland, Maine, and his wife, Linda, take candid shots of the grounds crew staff throughout each summer and then lay them out in a framed display in the maintenance shop as a memento.

"One thing I've learned over the years is never stop taking pictures," says Lewis. "There were a couple years I didn't take as many and I wished I had."

The best times of day to take your pictures are early morning (sunrise to 9 a.m.) and late afternoon (4 p.m. to dusk), when the sunlight is angled instead of directly overhead, and not too bright.

"The shadows are the best at those times," says Buchen, "and shadows make everything. I like to take pictures sometimes real early in the morning, with the dew still on the course and no vehicle tracks anywhere."

Another sensible tip Buchen passed along was placing a pen or pencil or a coin in your subject areas, like a "trouble" spot on a green for example, to help give a sense of size and perspective to your photograph.

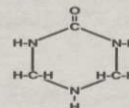
Whether it's for prints or slides, for the scrapbook or the slide projector, photography can play a key role in understanding and explaining the tasks and challenges facing a golf course superintendent and his or her staff every day.

"To really be thorough," says Buchen, "it's the best way to make a presentation. It's a lot of work. But hard work pays off."

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