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Medinah Country Club has one of the costly clubhouses of the Chicago district. It's a comparatively new club with landscaping requirements that constitute a real problem.

LANDSCAPING PRINCIPLES THAT Dress Up Dame Nature IN HER COUNTRY CLUB FINERY

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LANDSCAPE plantings on golf courses should make these courses more useful and more beautiful. Use and beauty are the two objectives of all good landscape work. The closer these two coincide and work together in harmony the more perfect and satisfactory is the landscape result. In other words, it is entirely possible to plan and plant our golf courses just as our home grounds so that they serve well the practical requirements of daily use and convenience and at the same

time are beautiful and satisfying and a joy to live with

At the end of my front walk right where one pauses and turns to step to the door landing is a little clump of English lavender set against a dense, bushy hemlock brought in from the wild. Every day in the year the gray-green of the lavender seen against the dark green of the hemlock is a joy and inspiration. Such permanent bits of beauty are worth their weight in gold. There should be more of these scattered

throughout the daily routine of our lives. Mankind needs beauty and we are going to have more and more as time goes on.

There is abundant opportunity for both greater convenience and greater beauty in American golf courses today. The field is immense and the objectives well worth while. I am very glad that a program of landscape improvement is being stressed by GOLFDOM and similar magazines. Such a program will bring these matters forcibly to the attention of greenkeepers and members of green-committees who are, or should be, alive to the situation. From these men results may be expected. The thought is very encouraging to me and I am glad to do what I can to help the cause along.

Beauty and Use Allied

In this brief article I shall start the discussion by mentioning a few of the ways in which good landscape plantings may increase both the efficiency and the beauty of golf courses. The simplest and most important of these are boundary plantings, background plantings, and special tree groups and specimens.

Boundary plantings may serve to hide unsightly objects such as sheds or railroad sidings or to screen buildings which are too near. In this case privacy may be secured and the impression created that one is removed from the objectionable nearness of other activities. The necessity of boundary masses like these is thoroughly recognized in all well designed large city parks where the problem becomes one of developing a country landscape in the midst of the city.

While boundary plantings may be very serviceable in some parts of the golf course, they may be unnecessary or even quite objectionable in other parts where beautiful views open up to the outside. In such places a vine covered fence or a low planting of shrubs with quite neutral appearance may be all that is needed. Any objects near a view line, i. e., objects over which you look, like a fence or a shrub border or objects between which you look, like trees which frame in a view, should be quiet and neutral in appearance so that they will not distract the attention from the view itself. In this case the distant view is the point of interest and not the nearby boundary planting.

Again, a boundary planting of tall trees which are dense and preferably evergreen and are serving well as a permanent screen against outside objects may become also

an effective background for attractive shrubs and smaller trees planted on the inside where they may be seen and enjoyed from the course and often from the clubhouse itself.

This brings us very conveniently to a discussion of background planting. We can all recall the beauty of some old house with its background and framework of trees. Such trees normal in form and color like elm, oak, maple, beech, pine, or hemlock make the best kind of background because they are neutral and therefore do not distract the attention from the building or other object which is the center of interest.

Careful With Emphasis

At this point let me remind you that the great majority of our trees and shrubs have this quiet, neutral appearance. Only a few trees are very definite or positive in form. The lombardy poplar is the best example of a large tree with positive upright form. It is the exclamation point of the landscape and exclamation points should be used carefully and with moderation. They should not be sprinkled all over the golf course. Neither should blue spruces nor any of the other spruces or firs be used to excess. Their form is very pyramidal and therefore unusual and positive and not quiet and restful. Of course, we want variety and interest on the golf course, in fact variety is the very essence of good golf course construction. But there is no reason why we should go to excess in landscape planting any more than in dress or language or anything else. If we stand on any natural golf course which has not been artificially planted and look at the normal landscape masses around us, including woodland growth, tree groups, and individual specimens standing out alone, we will see that at least three-fourths and usually as much as four-fifths of the landscape environment is neutral and quiet in appearance. Of course, all golf courses are not alike and some are more rugged and picturesque with more variety and accent than others but it is a very safe rule to be conservative and not go to excess in the use of landscape plants which are peculiar either in form, color, or other condition.

The landscaping on golf courses just as that of any other good landscaping job should fit into the local environment. When the job is done, it should look as though it just grew out of the situation and is a part of it. Therefore, landscape



Nature is a safe, sane and conservative landscape artist as this scene at the Lake Tippecanoe Country Club shows.

plantings should be mostly of native materials or of materials which, while cultivated or foreign, yet are similar in appearance to the natural materials of the locality. Of course, there are exceptions to this general rule especially in the case of plantings about the clubhouse. In these situations near buildings where things are architectural and artificial any way, we may use any foreign plants we wish provided they have good form and foliage and sufficient denseness, if denseness is needed, or any other requirement such as height or color which is appropriate. Landscape plantings should be appropriate and fitting no matter where they are. In the more formal situations about the clubhouse, they should be regular and formal; in the more natural situations about the fairways and in the rough, they should be irregular and naturalistic.

Shot Guides

There is one more common need for backgrounds on golf courses and that is about putting greens to increase visibility. A group of pine trees at the back or sides of a putting green will not only make a beautiful setting and background for the green but will also give direction to the line of play and a definite measure for the distance to be played. Deciduous trees, i. e. those which drop their leaves in the fall, are less desirable unless placed on the leeward side of the green so that the leaves will naturally blow away and not become a nuisance and extra care on the green. Here again you will notice that I have suggested pines as a background planting for the green rather than the stiffer and more pointed spruce and fir

type. It is entirely possible to use these more positive forms occasionally. Even a group of lombardy poplars now and then in an especially bold situation or where some special accent is desired may be entirely correct. But these strong accents and peculiar effects are not the things we want to live with all the time. They are the exceptions like the emergencies and the spicy places in life, a few will go a long way. If there are too many of them, we soon grow tired of them.

Finally, let me speak of one situation where tree groups or single specimen trees may be planted either in the rough or at the side of the fairway. These positions should be carefully located along the line of play usually near the end of a shot so that the tree or the group of trees will serve as a guide to the direction as well as a measure for the distance of the play. In addition to these useful purposes, such plantings will improve the natural appearance of a golf course and also afford occasional shady spots which often are very grateful along the way.

Determining Needs

In a brief article of this kind for general reading all over the United States, it is impossible to be very specific. I would like to give lists of trees and shrubs which would be useful for landscape work on golf courses but these must necessarily vary with the situation. What we use in New York state would not be used in California. The plains of the middle west are not like the mountains of the east. New York is different from Chicago and even Boston from Philadelphia.

I can, however, give a little general ad-

vice which may be helpful. Do not start out first to get a list of plants or to remember the names of certain plants that you think you want to use. Instead, go out and stand in front of the situation that you know is not right and that you want to make better somehow. Ask yourself, "What is needed?" Do you want tall trees? Should they be evergreen and dense for permanent screen and background all the year through? Does this situation need a tree under whose branches you can look, which like an American elm is tall and umbrella-like, which will frame the view and at the same time cast a grateful shade about the house or on the fairway? Do you want to increase the interest of the boundary planting on the inside by smaller flowering trees for spring or some bright autumn colors for fall? This is the way to approach your problem. Figure it out in the abstract first. State the requirements and then write the specifications by asking your local nurseryman or other plant authority what specific plants will fill these requirements.

Better still let me urge all who can to seek the advice and service of a good landscape architect. If you can not do this then at least enlist the help of the best men and women in the club. There are usually some members in every club who are interested and public spirited enough to talk these matters over. However, do not ask too much advice. Pick two or three people who are best fitted and then go over the situation with them, if possible separately and at different times. Perhaps follow this by a joint meeting for general discussion but at all times reserve final decision for yourself. Then make up your mind and go ahead as best you can. The way to do things is to do them. Keep an open mind and profit by other folks' mistakes rather than your own, if you can.

Here in the north we transplant narrow leaf evergreens such as cedar, arbor vitae, pine, hemlock, spruce, fir, and Japanese yew in late summer or early fall after the hottest part of the year is over. If you need such work done, it must be done soon and carefully.

Always move evergreens with as much earth around the roots as possible. Firm the soil thoroughly and never let the plant dry out either during the planting or afterward.

Deciduous plants are moved just as the leaves begin to fall or even earlier as soon

as autumn color begins to show. Ordinarily spring is the safest time for transplanting in the north because it is changing the plant just ahead of a good growing season. You are working with Nature, instead of against her, and this is a pretty safe rule to follow. However, evergreens (especially the tougher narrow-leaf types) may be moved in the fall provided you do it early enough so that the plants have time to get well established and make some root growth before winter sets in. Also the soil is often drier in the fall for planting hardy deciduous trees and shrubs and also there is usually less rush of work than in spring. For these reasons it is usually wise to get as much of the hardy deciduous material planted in the fall as possible and leave the spring for the planting of broadleaf evergreens and some of the more particular deciduous plants which are more difficult to plant such as oak, beech, and magnolia.

If I can help further in this improvement work, I shall do it gladly. I wish every greenkeeper success in his efforts be they large or small and I hope he makes the fewest mistakes possible.

New England Greens Show at Brae Burn Sept. 9

THE annual golf course and equipment show of the New England Service Bureau will be held at Brae Burn C. C., West Newton, Mass., Sept. 9. New England stages a splendid meeting and demonstration at its annual event and the prospects this year promise a show that's "bigger and better." All greenkeepers and chairmen are cordially invited. Exhibition of equipment and supplies are by invitation only. Frederick C. Hood, chairman of the executive committee of the New England Service Bureau and John Shanahan, president of the New England Greenkeepers' club head the sponsors of the affair.

R. G. ICELY, WILSON FACTORY CHIEF, DIES

Chicago, Ill.—R. G. Icelly, Wilson-Western Sporting Goods Co. plant superintendent, and brother of the organization's president, L. B. Icelly, died here, Aug. 10, after a prolonged illness.

For a number of years after leaving Sears, Roebuck & Co., where he had been head of the hardware department, Mr. Icelly was connected with Wilson-Western, and highly esteemed as a friend and as a manufacturer by the many in the sporting goods field who knew him.