

Good News About Trees For Golf Clubs

By RALPH B. BRYAN

Increased attention to possibilities of improved tree landscaping of golf courses is creating greater understanding of shade tree selection and care.

It is interesting that appreciation of values of shade and ornamental trees has been quickened in late years by some over-emphasizing of "bad news" of disease difficulties encountered by some trees.

Apprehensiveness for the welfare of trees is refuted by positive evidencing of strong adjustments in some of the most familiar tree species, with new generations developing new varieties adapted to changed conditions of growing and environment.

Trees have lived purposefully upon the earth for millions of years through changing cycles of growth, development, and adjustments.

There are generations of tree life as well as of animal life, and progression of vitality evidenced in each generation. A generation of Elms covers a period of around 150 years; Oaks, 250 years; Beeches, 350 years; Poplars, 30 to 40 years, and so on.

The life span, the generation term, and the cyclical development of trees varies according to species, and may also be affected by climate, soil conditions, environment, and other outward factors. But always there is a new generation growing in the tree world, new varieties created by nature, and new adjustments to changing environs.

It is recognized that the distinguishing mark of a superior golf course is the presence of good trees, wisely chosen and carefully tended. They are, almost invariably, genuine evidence that the course is designed and maintained for greatest playing pleasure.

The Augustine Ascending Elm Research Association, Inc., a Chicago group that has recently introduced a new species of Elm after more than 20 years of study and development, has conducted exhaustive research into fundamental backgrounds of many tree varieties and has for some time conducted a continuing educational program to broaden understanding of the American Elm tree character, characteristics, selection, and care.

Challenging "bad news" of trees, the Association points out that nature exerts a

continual regenerative force, and that in all the history of trees there is no record of any species having been destroyed by any degeneration or destructive influence.

This regenerative force of nature can be aided by intelligent selection of trees for planting, according to purpose, soil, and climatic conditions, environment, and other influences to which it will be exposed. It is also aided by proper care of tree and soil to insure healthy growth and strong resistance to insects and disease.

New Tree Introduced

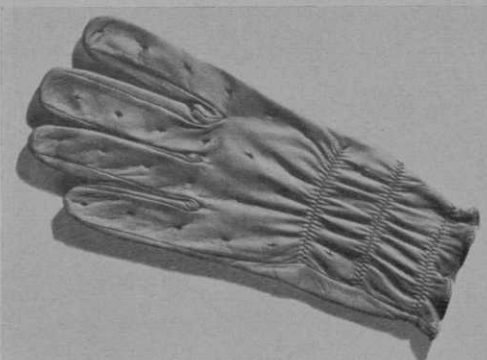
The new tree, which the Association first introduced for public planting a few months ago, is the Augustine Ascending Elm. It has stirred considerable interest in its possibilities for golf course landscaping because of unusual attributes and characteristics.

The Augustine Ascending Elm is a pedigreed tree in the "younger generation" of the Elm family that traces its ancestry back some 60 million years into the dim mists of antiquity. It was developed by the late A. M. Augustine, of Normal, Illinois, who was president of the American Nurserymen's Assn. and chairman of the committee that drafted the valuable "plant patent" law.

Following his work in Washington, Mr. Augustine devoted his time to research and propagation of plants and trees. In the course of this work, he was attracted to the unusual fast growth and stately columnar form of a young elm tree planted by his father as a seedling. Sturdy branch and trunk structure of the tree indicated unusual health and strength, and inspired Mr. Augustine further to study and experiment with this distinguished mutation of American Elm.

This was the beginning of a study which continued for more than two decades in which every factor and influence affecting the development and prosperity of the tree was painstakingly examined and diligently tested. Upon Mr. Augustine's death in 1947, the work which he began was taken up by the Augustine Ascending Elm Research Association, Inc., a group of tree experts inspired by the results of Mr. Augustine's pioneer work.

Successive generations of scions were raised from cuttings of the parent tree, and were planted in widely separated areas



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of the country under differing conditions and their progress then carefully studied and noted. The preliminary dissemination of specimen trees to arboretums and experimental locations inspired wider propagation of the tree to test its integrity further. Several thousand young trees were grown to three-year size under the watchful eyes of Association experts, and these trees were made available in limited quantities to municipalities for observation planting under varying conditions.

Important Development

When reports from this long study and development work were compiled, the results presented startling evidence of one of the most important arboreal developments in recent years, and full manifestation of the vision which inspired Mr. Augustine nearly a quarter-century ago in the little Illinois college town.

The Augustine Ascending Elm is a youthful American Elm mutation. It bears no seed, and is propagated by root grafted cuttings. It presents a majestic upright form as a result of stoutly crocheted limbs carrying the branches upright, with short lateral branches that provide wall-like foliage and columnar form. It has limited root spread and large leaves. It is exceptionally fast growing, and studies indicate

the rate of growth to be about 20 per cent faster than most other varieties of American Elm.

Highlights of the carefully studied experiences of Augustine Ascending Elms through the years include:

All of the scions have grown true to the form and character of the parent tree.

Suffers No Damage

Exceptional strength and health was evidenced in every scion. No tree has been damaged or destroyed by insects or disease, nor suffered by exposure to infected trees in so-called "epidemic areas".

Cyclones, high wind storms, sleet, ice, and snow that have badly damaged neighboring trees have left Augustine Ascending Elms unscathed and growing to beat the band.

Because of exceptionally fast rate of growth and unusual strength and vigor of young stock, the tree is economical. Substantial savings in initial cost are possible by planting younger trees, which soon outstrip in growth older varieties of Elm. The younger trees also adapt themselves more quickly to changed conditions and suffer less shock from transplanting.

In April, 1949, nine small Augustine Ascending Elms were planted in the green-

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NEWS ABOUT TREES

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house at the University of Illinois and inoculated with the virus phloem necrosis. In June, 1950, these same trees were again inoculated with the virus. One tree died in October, without conclusive evidence of cause. The remaining eight have thrived for two summers with two inoculations. Thus, basic assurance of resistance to phloem necrosis is favorable.

Now offered to the public for general planting for the first time, the Augustine Ascending Elm has been given the protective dignity of established status through copyright and a patent application. Propagation is supervised by the Association, and careful registry and study of all trees is continued.

Conforms to Course Landscaping

Special interest of greenkeepers is aroused because of characteristics important to the enclosure rows as well as appearance of golf course landscaping.

The stately form of the Augustine Ascending Elm permits effective plantings in avenues for ornamental effects or functional wind breaks, boundary markers, etc. It is also suggested in small groves planted quite close together for massive effects, or in groups of two or three for accented landscaping, and singly for shade and beauty.

Effective landscape treatment is created against broad vistas where massive crowns might appear overly-heavy.

Clean growth of crown and absence of overhanging branches protect lawns against excessive shade, while large leaves provide ample shade for comfort of players.

The Augustine Ascending Elm has neat root habits and raises the ground very little, thus protecting turf from upheaval of the ground.

Sturdy tap roots and stout trunks insure firm anchorage and resistance to elements.

PGA Ass't. Tourney Dir. Dies

William Shaver, 53, assistant to Howard Capps, PGA Tournament Director, died July 31, in a Milwaukee hospital of cerebral hemorrhage after collapsing on the first tee at Pabst Blue Ribbon tournament. He was ass't. to Pat Markovich, Professional at Richmond (Calif.) GC before taking up his new duties with the tournament bureau at time of PGA Championship, June 27.

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