

# Replacement TREES

**Seven or eight species requiring little maintenance, can take the place of those that have to be removed**

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**D**utch Elm disease and Phloem necrosis are taking a terrific toll in many Eastern states. The spread westward is rapid. There is no known cure. Spraying offers limited control, but it is almost impossible to treat all the trees that are affected. They seem to be everywhere. If there are many elms of this type on your course you should do something soon to prevent the stark appearance that will result when they die.

We suggest interplanting of other trees to take their place. Young trees planted 20 to 25 feet from the elms won't suffer too much from competition in growing near them and will be well established by the time the dying elms must be removed. Nothing will quite equal the majestic beauty of the elms but several kinds of trees are good replacements. Among these are the Maidenhair or Ginkgo, Marshall's seedless green ash, Amur cork and Japanese keaki. Honeylocusts of the thornless and seedless varieties, such as Majestic, Imperial and Skyline, also should be considered.

Every tee should have a tree or group of trees partially shading it or close enough to offer relief from the blazing sun. We once played the old Willowick CC course in Willoughby, O., that was

almost barren of trees except for about four holes. We can remember our relief when coming to the tee on a punch bowl hole. It had a comfortable bench under a liberal growth of elms. Seedless green ash, non-fruiting Amur cork or honeylocust would have been ideal there. Their filtering shade allows the turf to thrive under them and offers relief from the sun. They are low maintenance trees.

We all love trees but let's not plant a wilderness! Give them room to grow and flourish to their ultimate size and beauty. Most of the larger growing trees should be planted at least 50 feet apart. Even flowering crabapples and hawthorns need 15 to 25

foot spacing. The young trees you plant may look lonesome for a while but give them time.

Always remember, "a \$1 tree in a



This Marshall seedless green ash is only five years old. Note straight trunk and symmetrical top. It's a low maintenance tree.

\$10 hole is better than a \$10 tree in a \$1 hole". Always have someone who knows how, supervise the planting. Don't forget to supply some drainage. Most trees do not thrive with wet roots. Good soil and fertilizer will help, too.

So far we have said little about color. We suggest using sunburst locust and crimson king maples as "marker" trees but there are countless other possibilities. From the spring show of the flowering crabapples to the winter-hanging brick-red fruit of the Lavelle hawthorn, the right selection of trees can offer a constant display of dazzling beauty to complement the various shades of green on your course. Foliage on Amur maple, sweet gum and black gum are spectacular in the fall. Many of the maples and oaks are gorgeous. However, the leaf problem they create tends to relegate their use to that of background trees far from the fairways.

Hawthorns pay off twice with white spring flowers and red berries in the fall and winter. Katsura trees seem covered with golden "pieces of eight" after the first fall frost. Golden rain and Japanese pagoda offer summer dividends of yellow and white flowers. We are familiar with the late summer and fall glory of the mountain ash. All of these are low maintenance trees.

### High Branching

When ordering your trees it is advantageous to order those grown with a single stem, branched high enough from the ground to allow for machine mowing. This saves a good deal of labor. Judicious pruning keeps out low-growing sprouts.

Now we come to a controversial subject. To this writer, evergreen trees have little place on the golf course. Their winter color is fine and they grow well in many places, but they create an unfair hazard in many instances. You may recall that Phil Rodgers had to waste several strokes in the Open in dislodging a ball that came to rest in the thick "inverted umbrella" type branches of a blue spruce planted too close to a green. If evergreens must be used, trim off those lower limbs. Use them as a background placed well behind the greens and away from the fairways. (We'll bet this paragraph puts us out on a limb!)

### Ornamental Shrubs

Ornamental and flowering shrubs also have a place in the planting. Be sure to select those that are completely winter-

hardy and do not require constant pruning to keep them in bounds. Those that flower in late spring or summer when the course is in use are most desirable. Give them room and remember that you can't mow under most of them.

A fine use for shrubs is as a screen between a green and a nearby tee. They will help close off distracting movements and sounds that often disturb the putter. They need not take too much room. Tallhedge, a recent development, will provide a dense sound-deadening screen about 4 feet wide and 12 to 15 feet tall within a few years after planting. Its lush green beauty is enhanced by varicolored berries all summer long. Tallhedge is completely hardy, transplants easily and requires almost no care. If plenty of space is available, many of the taller growing hardy viburnums, such as *dentatum*, *lantana* and *lentago*, are fine. White fringe grows into a fine specimen shrub.

### Shrubs for Hazards

One thing that is quite interesting is the use of the native gorse as a hazard on British and Scottish courses. It creates almost unplayable lies and gives us an idea. On many of our courses, shortages of water prevent having enough hazards. Why not use some of our tough, low-growing shrubs instead? Certainly anyone whose ball landed in a mass planting of dwarf Japanese quince, Hancok coralberry or the like would rather take a penalty than try to chop the ball from such a lie. In fact, course rules could require it, as they do with the water hazards. This would add beauty as well as utility and would require almost no maintenance. Much precious water could be reserved for watering greens, tees and fairways.

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### Paul Runyon, Others Star in PGA Seniors Film

A film covering the 1962 PGA Seniors Teacher Trophy tournament is available from Modern Talking Pictures Service, Inc., 3 E. 54th St., New York City. There is no charge for the film which comes in two versions: 16 mm (28 min.) black and white, suitable for clubs; and 35 mm (9½ min.) designed to be shown in theaters. Stars of the production are Paul Runyan, the tournament winner, Jock Hutchison, Fred McLeod and 88-year old Bert Way.