

"Buffalograss is nature's turf of choice for our area," Sandburg says. "Between 150 and 200 years ago, this variety grew rampant across the Southern plains without any human assistance. It makes sense to use it on our naturalized course."

Buffalograss, with less need for fertilizer and pesticide, needs little maintenance and has a high drought tolerance.

Fescues are the grass of choice for the out-of-play areas at Hyannisport Club, Egan says.

"Our course is located on the saline Atlantic flyway of Cape Cod," Egan adds. "Because of their high tolerance for sea salts, fescues have thrived here."

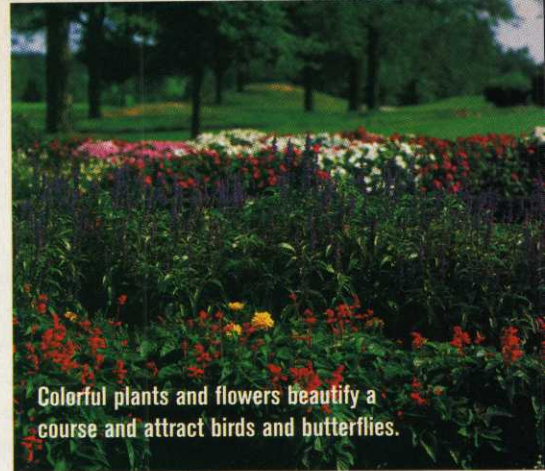
Designers of the Lakeside course replaced Tifdwarf on the greens with a newer Tifdwarf variety that grows more slowly, minimizing the disruption of habitats that frequent mowing can cause. It also means less maintenance.

An L93/Crenshaw blend was installed

on the greens at Carolina National GC in Bolivia, N.C. "This variety is lower growing, more disease resistant and more water thrifty than other varieties used on greens, which makes it a low-maintenance grass that's well-suited for naturalization," says Matthew Mays, the course's environmental specialist.

In some cases, a naturalized course will "decide" for itself what grasses work best. At Lakeside, Sandburg says workers planted zoysiagrass on bunker faces, thinking it would reduce mowing and maintenance requirements. But Houston's high humidity promoted disease in the susceptible zoysiagrass over time and weakened it. Eventually, the hybrid 419 Bermudagrass overtook the bunker faces because it has stronger resistance to the diseases common to that region, Sandburg says.

■ **In addition to selecting appropriate plant materials, take steps to attract wildlife.** Colorful plants and flowers should draw na-



Colorful plants and flowers beautify a course and attract birds and butterflies.

tive birds and butterflies. Mounted and monitored nest boxes will also bring birds to the area, and brush piles offer appealing shelter to larger animals.

"The unique ecosystems located at Hyannisport, coupled with our efforts to promote wildlife, have drawn various animals to the course, including rabbits, foxes and osprey," Egan says.

In some cases, wildlife residing on a naturalized course will contribute to the course's maintenance. "The wood ducks and mallards we released onto the course help keep our ponds clean by feeding on excess floating vegetation," Dinelli says.

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