

## Off The Fringe

Continued from page 16

hot and dry season in Northern areas of the country where golf courses have bentgrass greens, a triplex mower could cause some stress," he says.

Obviously, the best way to achieve labor efficiency is to use triplex greens mowers, Nicotera says. Greif notes that upper-echelon courses use mostly walking greens mowers. However, he says some courses' maintenance staffs walk mow the greens only for tournaments.

Nicotera probably speaks for all mower manufacturers when he says that quality of cut will always be a vital issue with triplex greens mowers.

"What people remember most about a course is its greens," Nicotera says. "If the greens are good, they'll go back and play the course again. Quality of cut is what we need to continue to offer on these units. We need to make sure we have the latest technology and the top-quality products to put on greens."

## While Trees Are Dormant ...

... YOU MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER PRUNING THEM

By Jami Pfirman

*Editor's note: Throughout the year, Pfirman, a communications specialist for The Davey Tree Expert Co., will report on seasonal tips for tree care.*

**E**very golf course is its own ecosystem. Each plant is an integral part of the whole. From the turf to the trees, every plant must be healthy to ensure the stability of the whole. Routine care, like pruning of course trees, is essential for maintaining health.

Regular pruning is beneficial for many reasons ranging from health to aesthetics. Pruning removes dead, broken, decayed, diseased or insect-infested wood. It improves the penetration of light and air as well as reduces wind resistance and potential storm damage. Pruning corrects and redirects structural growth to prevent future problems. In addition to health benefits, pruning shapes the appearance of trees. It also eliminates safety hazards.

While pruning can be done year-round depending on objectives and the tree species, dormant pruning, in particular, can be beneficial for many trees. Pruning during times of growth as in the late spring may tax tree resources. While trees are attempting to create new wood or leaves, less energy is available to respond to pruning wounds.

Continued on page 22

## Keep Your Golf Course Free of Leaves & Debris

Leaf Blowers & Leaf Collection Systems make it easy to keep your course playable and looking good year-round.



### The Industry's Top-Performing Leaf Blowers

- Up to 2510 CFM
- Easy-off Taper Lok™ hub
- High-volume output, cast-aluminum impellers



### Keep Vacuuming Instead of Dumping

- Full-floating axles
- Self-dumping design
- 12:1 compaction ratio
- 4-blade steel impeller

# GIANT-VAC

Visit Us Online at [www.giant-vac.com](http://www.giant-vac.com)

## Off The Fringe

Continued from page 21

During dormant seasons, trees are able to adapt to the loss of branches during the following growing season. Pathogens and the insects that may carry them are also dormant, reducing the risk of disease. The lack of leaves makes it easier to see defective tree parts such as structural weaknesses. Additionally, trees will rapidly develop calluses around cuts during the following growing season.

The basic principle of pruning is that the removal of any live part of the plant will affect future growth. The overall goal is to direct new growth. Most cuts are intended to prevent or correct defective form that may result in branch or stem failure. However, if it is not done correctly, pruning can be incredibly damaging.

Proper pruning should not be confused with the disfiguring practice of topping, which is the indiscriminate removal of a tree's main branches result-



THE DAVEY TREE EXPERT CO.

**Avoid removing more than a fourth of the live branches of a tree.**

ing in stubs. The cut surfaces of stubs do not close readily and accelerate internal decay. Topping leaves a tree highly susceptible to damage from strong winds, sunscald, winter injury, insects and diseases.

The Davey Tree Expert Co. recommends that you consult a certified arborist to establish a pruning program. An arborist is able to help prevent haz-

ards as well as direct future growth.

It's important for any arborist to foresee the need for removing live branches when they are small. Direction of growth can be influenced by removing small portions of growth or individual buds.

Avoid removing more than a fourth of the live branches of a tree. Excessive thinning is stressful. Always avoid hollowing out the center of a tree's canopy. The majority of cuts should be made along the outer crown.

every master  
has his tools



# dynaBLADE

the tool for the  
turf professional

### TUNGSTEN CARBIDE TIPS

long lasting tips  
that remove more  
thatch, producing  
a smoother, faster  
putting surface

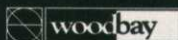
### FINS VACUUM THATCH

fins vacuum  
thatch into the  
catchers, reducing  
cleanup time and  
equipment wear

1 800 661 4942

www.greensiron.com

woodbay@greensiron.com



# Drive for show putt for dough

## greensIRON 3000

For a smooth and consistent  
path to the cup



- "Feather Touch" operation
- Non-slip rubber coated drive roller
- Reduces recover time and inconvenience to golfers after aerifying and top dressing greens
- Optional Eaton hydrostatic or Snow-Nabstedt Power Transmissions
- Consistent green spread - green to green and day to day ... just like the tour events!
- Turf ventilator and broom attachments

Toll Free 1 800 661 4942

Email: woodbay@greensiron.com  
www.greensiron.com

