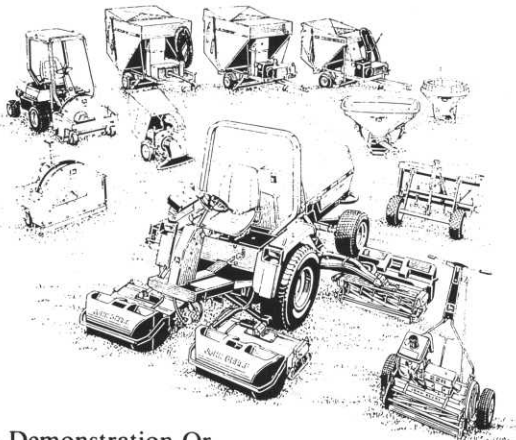


## The Golf Tee

First and foremost, Dr. William Lowell was a gentleman. In 1921, at the age of 60, the dentist from South Orange, New Jersey, took up golf. He was appalled by the practice of teeing the ball on a pyramid of wet sand, leaving a player with gritty hands. Instead, Lowell used his dental tools to whittle a golf tee. Although Dr. Lowell's partners referred to his tees as "suppositories for wildcats," Lowell's sons saw commercial potential in the tee, and in 1924 Lowell received a patent. His Reddy Tee was packed in boxes of 18 that sold for a quarter. Lowell imagined golfers would leave them behind and use a box per round. He even planned a biodegradable version until he realized golfers were hanging on to the little wooden spikes. The tee got a professional boost when Walter Hagen, the U.S. Open Champion, pulled up to Dr. Lowell's dental office and asked where he could get more tees. Advertised as "The Tee of Champions," 70 million Reddy Tees sold worldwide in 1929. By then competition was catching up to Dr. Lowell, and his company office was closed in 1933.

Old Farmer's Almanac, 1988

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## THE EXTENSION LINE

*Bob Mugaas of the University of Minnesota Extension Service is a regular contributor to Hole Notes. As Hennepin County Extension Agent, Mr. Mugaas compiles various articles related to the golf field for our information. Bob is an excellent source for answers to many questions on horticultural problems. He may be reached at 612/542-1420. Written requests should be sent to:*

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This month's articles cover Types of Pruning- Mature Trees, Oak Problems, and Powdery Mildew.

## TYPES OF PRUNING-- MATURE TREES

From Nursery Notes, August 1989

by **Elton M. Smith**

Extension Specialist - Landscape Horticulture  
Ohio Cooperative Extension Service

### A. CROWN CLEANING

Crown cleaning or cleaning out is the removal of dead, dying, diseased, crowded, weakly attached, or low-vigor branches and watersprouts from a tree crown.

### B. CROWN THINNING

Crown thinning includes crown cleaning and the selective removal of branches to increase light penetration and air movement into the crown. Increased light and air stimulates and maintains interior foliage, which in turn improves branch taper and strength. Thinning reduces the wind-sail effect of the crown and the weight of heavy limbs. Thinning the crown can emphasize the structural beauty of trunk and branches as well as improve the growth of plants beneath the tree by increasing light penetration. When thinning the crown of mature trees, seldom should more than one-third of the live foliage be removed.

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