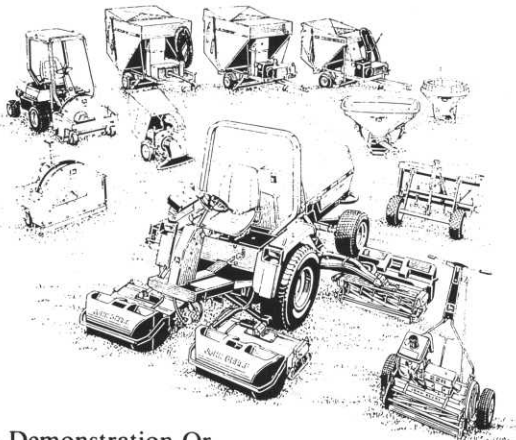


## The Golf Tee

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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**701 Decatur Ave. N.**  
**Suite 105**  
**Minneapolis, MN 55427**

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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At least one-half of the foliage should be on branches that arise in the lower two-thirds of the trees. Likewise, when thinning laterals from a limb, an effort should be made to retain inner lateral branches and leave the same distribution of foliage along the branch. Trees and branches so pruned will have stress more evenly distributed throughout the tree or along a branch.

An effort known as "lion's-tailing" results from pruning out the inside lateral branches. Lion's tailing, by removing all the inner foliage, displaces the weight to the ends of the branches and may result in sunburned branches, watersprouts, weakened branch structure and limb breakage.

#### C. CROWN REDUCTION

Crown reduction is used to reduce the height and/or spread of a tree. Thinning cuts are most effective in maintaining the structural integrity and natural form of a tree and in delaying the time when it will need to be pruned again. The lateral to which a branch or trunk is cut should be at least one-half the diameter of the cut being made.

#### D. CROWN RESTORATION

Crown restoration can improve the structure and appearance of trees that have been topped or severely pruned using heading cuts. One to three sprouts on main branch stubs should be selected to reform a more natural appearing crown. Selected vigorous sprouts may need to be thinned to a lateral, or even headed, to control length growth in order to ensure adequate attachment for the size of the sprout. Restoration may require several prunings over a number of years.

#### E. CROWN RAISING

Crown raising removes the lower branches of a tree in order to provide clearance for buildings, vehicles, pedestrians, and vistas. It is important that a tree have at least one-half of its foliage on branches that originate in the lower two-thirds of its crown to ensure a well-formed, tapered structure and to uniformly distribute stress within a tree.

When pruning for view, it is preferable to develop "windows" through the foliage of the tree, rather than to severely raise or reduce the crown.

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