

10 Deadly Problems

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Only one agronomist said all club departments should be controlled by a general manager.

"There are very few qualified general managers who know your business and view their job as the monitoring of expenses. There are some clubs where the general manager is excellent. The Country Club of Brookline (Mass.) is an excellent example," Connolly said.

6. Pesticide storage and maintenance bunking (5). "Improper storage facilities are a big problem," Connolly said. "I've visited courses that have had pesticides stored in a wooden building by a stream. I said to the superintendent, 'You've got to do something about this.' He told me club officials told him to just wait until we get caught and then we'll do something."

"The mentality is just ridiculous. If you don't do something, you could be facing a stiff fine, and besides, it's just good stewardship."

7. Tree management (5). "Not cutting down enough trees is one of my main complaints," Connolly said.

Proper thinning, air movement and

keeping roots from competing with the turfgrass for space, nutrients and water were also noted.

All five tree management votes came from Eastern agronomists. It wasn't listed at all by those in the Midwest or West.

"They don't have as many (trees), I guess," Connolly said. "Although in the Northwest I know they have a tremendous amount."

Trees left in the wrong place, memorial trees planted here and there and trees located in the middle of a fairway affecting maintenance and playability were also mentioned.

8. Amount of play (5). This primarily involved too much play. Tee times from dawn to dusk simply leaves too little time for maintenance, Connolly said.

Other complaints included play beginning too early in the day, continuing during inclement weather, or lasting too late into the season. Holding too many outings for the course to handle was another concern.

9. Labor (4). Labor problems included too little help, lack of quality workers and management decisions to spend money elsewhere, even when the money for labor was available.

"A couple of years ago in the New York-New Jersey area you just couldn't get labor. First, we weren't offering enough money, and second, you couldn't find people who wanted to work on the golf course," Connolly remembered.

10. Equipment (4). This is frequently out of the superintendent's control. Some said they saw courses without enough equipment. At others the equipment was outdated. Still others had insufficient capital budgets for new equipment and lack of knowledge regarding the use or availability of new equipment.

"Of all the industries out there, golf course maintenance has to have some of the most innovative people for making do with what they have. Some of these guys take the junkiest piece of equipment and make it work. It's a compliment to the industry," Connolly said.

Sins coming up just short of the votes needed to make the Top 10 list included superintendents not spending enough time on activities other than course maintenance; inability to read soil tests; poor record keeping; inappropriately timed maintenance, and taking advice from the wrong people. —Peter Blais,

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Cut Off Office Complainers

We've all worked—or perhaps still do—with people who are constantly negative about their work and their life in general. They're the employees who always see the worst side of things, who complain about how badly things are going.

They're the official pessimists, and their unhappiness can, unfortunately, spread. When it does, morale gets murdered, productivity is undermined and the ranks will start to grumble.

One way to prevent the pessimists from doing too much damage is to give them as little to work with as possible. Don't allow griping sessions to get too long, or to happen too regularly (but don't stifle them completely, either).

If you're the one being griped about, double-check to be sure you're not at fault.

And, if you're irritated about the complainers, take a quick inventory to make sure you're not leading the way.

1991 MGCSA Monthly Meeting Sites

Date	Location	Sponsor
Aug. 19	New Richmond, Wis. MGCSA Championship (dinner)	Polfus Implement
Sept. 16	Golden Valley/Oak Ridge Research Tournament (Dinner at Oak Ridge)	
Oct. 7	Hastings (lunch)	R & W Golf Cars
November (first wk.)	Weather permitting, golf at Mankato	
November 20-21-22	Annual Conference Northland Inn	