

Let's Get Planting

* * * *

Here Are Some Excellent Suggestions to Consider

By TWILA WYSOCKI
Landscape Gardener, Wayzata Country Club

Now that you're up to your ears in all those annoying little situations that make a Golf Course Superintendent's job the challenge that it is, you find that you can no longer put off that haunting questions. . .

"CAN WE GET MORE COLOR ON THE GOLF COURSE?"

The month of May is the peak planting season: however, there are always a few items that must be discussed, so that your flower bed, be it perennial or annual, is a complete success.

1. Purchase your plant material from a reputable business. If they grow their own stock, you may be able to work with them in the fall to order specific varieties of plant material for the next spring.
2. Determine the purpose of your planting. Are you trying to control traffic, screen an eyesore or direct your view away from an eyesore, control an erosion problem, or just make a specific area more aesthetically pleasing.
3. Consider the soil type, amount of sunlight available, water source, and exposure to heat (such as parking lot or patio plantings).
4. Your range of view is also important. Is this a flower bed that is viewed up close, or is it in an open area viewed from several hundred feet away? Can the flower bed be viewed from all or just one side, or is it to be viewed from inside the clubhouse or when driving over a bridge?

When I consider colors in my designs (notice that this is a personal opinion) I have found bright reds, yellows, oranges and bright pinks work well for long distance views and white flowers work well when used against a dark background. Blues and purples are good colors for close viewbeds but tend to fade into the landscape at a long distance..

A flower bed with just a few colors is more eye-appealing than a conglomerate of many colors. When using a color mix (such as a mass planting of mixed petunias), the colors tend to wash each other out in a long distance view, but they are very attractive when viewed up close.

I'll be the last one to tell a Golf Course Superintendent how beautiful the color green is. There's a wide variety of green plants that offer some interesting textures to your designs, such as ferns, Castor Bean (an annual that gets upwards of 5' to 8' tall and looks very tropical), Kochia (very soft dense plant with a lime green summer color and then a brilliant red color in the fall), and don't forget there are many plants that are normally used as houseplants that work well outdoors. Some of them are; Swedish Ivy, Springer Fern, Inch plant (Wandering Jew) and a wide assortment of Ivy's. Don't rule out using herbs in a flower design. Curled Leaf Parsley makes a beautiful border. Some vegetables have their places, too. Green Peppers or Eggplant can be used to separate varieties of flowers.

Some plants such as Ornamental Cabbage (Kale), Flowering Maple (Abulition), Sedums and Hostas are not necessarily used for their flowers. They instead have interesting foliage color and texture that let them stand on their own. To achieve a full-looking flower bed early in the season, I try to plant the flowers as close together as possible. Of course, consideration is taken for those plants that are naturally susceptible to disease and need good air circulation such as Zinneas, Geraniums, Begonias and Roses.

Look through seed catalogs or books on flowers to get an idea on mature size, which determines plant spacing. On the average, the spacing that is recommended in these books or on plant labels is very generous. I have assembled a list of commonly used plants and some average spacing I use in my designs:

Allyssum	6" apart	. . 4" - 6" between rows
Ageratum	6" apart	. . 4" - 6" between rows
Cannas	12" apart	. . . 12" between rows
Geraniums	9" apart 9" between rows
Impatiens	8" apart 8" between rows
Petunias	8" apart 6" between rows
Salvia	8" apart 8" between rows
Snapdragons	8" apart 6" between rows
Wax Begonias	6" apart 6" between rows
Tuberous Begonias	8" apart 6" between rows
Zinnia dwarf	6" apart 6" between rows
Zinnia med.-tall	12" apart	. 9" - 12" between rows

Where do I get ideas for flower combinations? Start off by keeping a camera with you when you're going to be out driving. If you see a design you like, take a photo. If you have trouble remembering names of particular flow-

(Continued on Page 21)

Let's Get Planting

(Continued from Page 6)

ers take a close-up shot of the flower, then either compare the flower in a book or go to a garden center for help. To get a good idea of flower performance, plus it's worth the trip to Vaughans Growing Range located just outside of Northfield. For now you might want to check out the open houses that occur during the month of May at several garden centers and area greenhouses to make a list of specific varieties that go good together.

The following companies may have seed catalogs available that can assist you in flower variety selection:

Vaughan's Seed Company
5300 Katrine Ave.
Downers Grove, IL 60515-4095

Harris Morgan Seed Company
3670 Buffalo Rd.
Rochester, NY 14624

Ball Seed Company
A Division of Geo. J. Ball, Inc.
P.O. Box 335
West Chicago, IL 60185

Park Seed Wholesale
Cokesbury Rd.
Greenwood, SC 29647-0001

Thompson and Morgan Seed Catalog
P.O. Box 1308
Jackson, NJ 08527

Golf Car Battery SALE!



**TROJAN
220 A.H.**

1-23.... **\$49⁵⁰** ea.
24-47... **\$46⁵⁰** ea.
48-up .. **\$43⁵⁰** ea.

Cushman Motor Co.
2909 E. Franklin Ave., Mpls, 55406
333-3487

FOR SALE

Toro 5-gang pull frame with five 7-blade Spartan cutting units, pneumatic tires, reconditioned and sharpened.

\$1650 or best offer

Call Dale

Meadowbrook Golf Course

612/348-3539

1991 MGCSA Monthly Meeting Sites

Date	Location	Sponsor
May 13	River Falls (lunch)	Cushman Motor Co. Turf Supply (speaker)
June 3	Pebble Creek (lunch)	MTI - Neary Mfg.
July 8	Izaty's (lunch)	Lesco - Deep Tine Aerifying, Keith Faber, Five Star Deep Aerifying Co.
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	