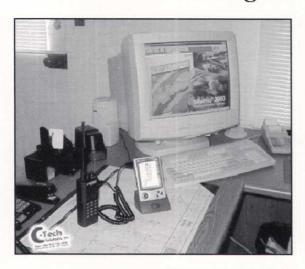
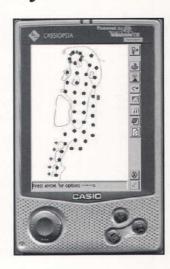
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The PRISM System

Designed to work exclusively with the TORO SitePro Central and OSMAC or Network Radio System.

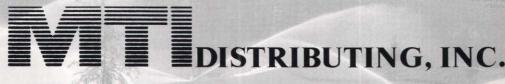
When you're on the go, PRISM is with you to provide easy finger-tip control of your irrigation system.

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Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association

HAROLD STODOLA RESEARCH SCRAMBLE

THURS., SEPTEMBER 21, 2000

ALEXANDRIA GOLF CLUB ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA

HOST SUPERINTENDENT: STEVE HAMELAU

Field limited to 36 teams

\$95 Entry Fee
Per Player...
includes lunch, dinner,
research donation,
golf cart and more!

Because of the limited amount of entries that may be accepted,
Class A and B Members will be allowed three guests each.
Only one group from any course/club may participate.
Other classifications may play but may not bring a guest.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRY IS SEPTEMBER 11

Proper Golf Attire Required

FORMAT: 4-PERSON SCRAMBLE

12:00 noon

Lunch (check below for lunch count)

1:30 p.m.

Afternoon Shotgun

6:00-7:00 p.m.

Reception

7:00 p.m.

Dinner at Alexandria Golf Club

(Dinner tickets available for \$50 ea. includes research fund donation.)

ENTRIES ACCEPTED ON FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS SOFTSPIKES MANDATORY ON GOLF COURSE

Register a Team or Sign Up Individually

REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE FILL OUT COMPLETELY. THE LUNCH AND DINNER COUNTS ARE IMPORTANT.

NAME	CLASS	GOLF COURSE/COMPANY	LUNCH	DINNER	GOLF \$95	HANDICAP
					\$95	
				<u> </u>	\$95	
					\$95	

___GOLFERS \$95 ea. AND ____ NON-GOLFERS @ \$50 ea. FOR A GRAND TOTAL OF \$_

Wildflowers on Your Course?

They May Provide a Welcome New Dimension

By JOHN M. KROUSE

If you haven't planted wildflowers on your golf course yet, you'll probably find it hard to resist the temptation much longer. Wildflowers are everywhere! Whether they're planted along highways or in suburbs, low-maintenance wildflowers have become an accepted landscape alternative to turfgrass and gardens across the U.S. And now that wildflower seed is more widely available than ever before, many golf courses have begun to experiment with wildflowers, too.

The popularity of wildflowers isn't difficult to understand. Wildflowers attract birds and butterflies, are colorful, and are usually easy to grow from seed. In many respects, wildflower plantings have all the desirable qualities that people expect from more formal landscape plantings, but unlike any other landscape planting, wildflowers often seem to have the ability

to become part of the landscape. The relaxed way that wildflower plantings fit and blend into a landscape, for instance, may explain more about the reasons for their popularity than their colors or fragrance alone can explain.

It's surprising that the popular acceptance of wildflowers for low-maintenance landscaping has taken so long to develop. There are millions of acres of park and recreational land that fall somewhere into the landscaping middle-ground, that big space that lies between the carefully maintained and the truly wild, and which wildflowers seem so remarkably able to exploit.

Whether wildflowers will someday rank among our most common plantings, or simply become one of the more pleasant ways to mark the transition from the civilized world to the natural world is difficult to say. However, it is certainly clear that there are few landscape materials better suited or more deserving of wider use on America's golf courses than wildflowers.

Like any landscape material, a wildflower planting can't succeed without planning and some provision for its management. The good news is that a few modest wildflower plantings are probably among the most attractive, most cost effective, and most interesting landscaping improvements a golf course can make. And best of all, superintendents overwhelmingly report favorable responses from their membership when they plant wildflowers.

The bad news is that wildflower maintenance is a very new technology and is extremely dependent upon geography and climate. Because of this fact, wildflower plantings often require management skills that most golf course superintendents don't have . .

.yet. Sadly, it is also true that many superintendents who were the talk of their clubs when they planted large wildflower areas were once again the subject of conversation when their plantings were overrun with weeds within a few months. Most just didn't understand the need for selecting wildflower species adapted to their area, or the need to destroy weed populations before seeding.

Three Things to Remember

In many ways creating a successful wildflower planting is a complex task, but one which depends upon three fairly simple and universal factors: proper site selection, proper seed mix(Continued on Page 24)



SEPTEMBER 2000 HOLE NOTES 23

Wildflowers on Golf Courses-

(Continued from Page 23)

ture selection, and proper timing.

When appropriate sites are selected to plant wildflowers, the most important step is taken towards guaranteeing the long-term success of the planting. Unfortunately, one of the biggest traps that superintendents fall into remains failing to understand the importance of seeding wildflowers in the sites that are best for the flowers, and not in those problem sites on the course where nothing else really grows well.

Good Places for Wildflowers

Sunny, open sites with good soil and waterholding ability

Transition areas, out-of-play rough, edges of woods, fencelines, etc.

Sites where seasonal color will add interest to the course.

Easily accessible sites that you can maintain.

Bad Places for Wildflowers

Small, narrow, or awkwardly shaped sites. Windy or busy sites that collect blowing trash.

Sites with frequent foot or vehicle traffic.

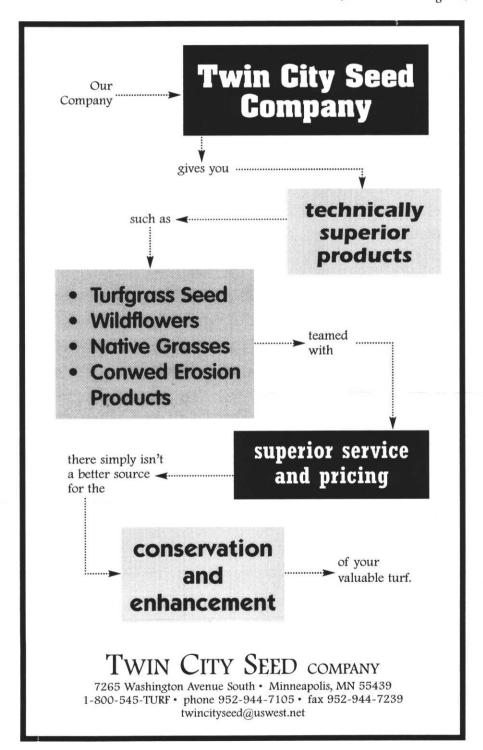
Most likely, the species that will be selected for a typical wildflower planting will be the ones that need a lot of sunshine and that require a soil of at least average fertility and water-holding ability The reasons why are easy to understand: flowering takes energy and nutrients. Without sun, water, and a good supply of soil minerals, the wild flower plants just can't make the growth necessary for good flowering. In general, if the site is too shady, infertile, or droughty to support a good cover of grass, then it is probably a site where wildflowers won't grow well either.

So where to put them? Hopefully, at least some of the sites with good sun and soil will also be among the places most easily seen and appreciated by golfers. Most courses have plenty of transitional spots - those places between fairways, at the edges of woods, and at the borders of the property that everyone can see, but which no one ordinarily notices. Wildflowers work well where the line between deep rough and woods is a bit fuzzy, or where roadways and neighboring fields come within view, but aren't really a desirable part of the scenery. Ironically, wildflowers often look better in the middle ground, the viewing space between 25 and 100 feet, than at closer or farther distances. The vivid colors of wildflowers are easily noticed in the middle

ground, but their often scraggly off-season appearance is usually not so objectionable.

Wildflowers also differ in one very important aspect from turf. Wildflowers rarely rebound gracefully from foot or vehicular traffic, so it's usually best to keep them out of places where errant balls often land. A ball that goes into the wildflowers is almost certainly a lost ball, but it only takes a few determined players to flatten a (formerly) nice stand of wildflowers. Make sure you plant them safely out of play.

It's important to give the needs of your workers some consideration, too. A wildflower planting will need some mainte (Continued on Page 25)



Wildflowers on Golf Courses-

(Continued from Page 24)

nance over the years, and usually more than most superintendents suspect. A typical wildflower planting may only be mowed once per year, but most will require at least a few hours of weeding a few times through the year.

Eventually, maybe in three to seven years, most wildflower plantings will require major renovation and reseeding. The one thing you don't want to do is plant your wildflowers in a site where any of these tasks will be difficult or impossible to

Wildflowers cannot be squeezed into small spaces. Even worse are long, thin, or oddly shaped island beds or borders that are close to walkways, clubhouses, or parking lots. Naturalized plantings rarely look right in such tight quarters, and under such circumstances the wildflowers invariably behave poorly. They grow tall and flop over, get in the way of lawn mowers and pedestrians, or end up collecting litter. Whenever a wildflower planting is put into a tight or carefully laid-out spot, you can almost bet that the planting is probably also in a highly visible location in the viewing foreground (less than 25 feet away). In the winter it will look shabby and collect blowing leaves, and in the summer it will look too wild for its site and accumulate paper and other debris.

Wildflower Seed Mixes to Look For

Include a variety of perennials for permanent groundcover. Many of the species are native to your geographic area.

Annuals are included at low seeding rates for non-competitive first-year color.

Color display changes through-out the growing season.

Wildflower Seed Mixes to Avoid

Mixes that contain predominantly Eurasian annual species. Inexpensive mass-marketed mixes; "meadow-cans."

Mixes that include the seed of tall-growing or weedy species.

Mixes with inert filler or grass seed included.

Proper seed mix selection is very important. The key is learning the names of the best adapted species for seeding in your area. Depending upon your region, there may be many native species to choose from or only a few. If your golf course is in the Midwest, for instance, there's probably a wide variety of native prairie species for you to choose from. On the other hand, if you are in the East, there are only a few dependable native species, but also some very good introduced species. As

a rule, however, native species are usually the best adapted when planted in their area of origin, and a seed mix that features locally grown native species is the best bet

in many areas of the country.

Check with your local cooperative extension service, state highway administration, and local naturalist organizations for their recommendations. The seed for an acre of wildflowers usually costs between \$300 and \$800. Compared with many club expenses, it's not a fortune, but it's money that you must spend wisely if you want good results. There are literally hundreds

of wildflower seed companies in business today; it's no longer difficult to get good quality wildflower seed. If you don't wish to use a seed mixture that your local seed company offers, many mail order companies will custom mix seed to your

specifications, usually at no extra charge.

The biggest problem with establishing permanent wild-flower plantings is weed invasion. Most of the time when weeds are a problem, the site was not adequately prepared in advance of seeding, i.e., the perennial weeds and grasses were not killed, and when the area was seeded, the weeds rapidly re-established themselves. Usually, if time and care are taken, the vegetative parts of colonial perennial weeds can be destroyed before the area is seeded, but this usually requires a minimum of two to three months lead time.

Proper Timing Pays Off

Order your seed mixes well in advance; supplies sometimes run out!

Allow several months to complete the necessary soil preparations.

Kill all perennial weeds before seeding.

Plant seed when annual weeds will be least competitive.

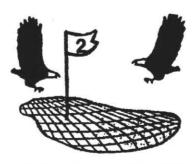
Haste Makes Weeds

Hastily purchased seed mixes waste time and manpower. Improper soil preparation allows the rapid return of weeds. Seeding at the wrong time of year invariably promotes

Over the long term, it is usually perennial weeds that are most troublesome in a permanent wildflower planting. Annual weeds are usually a problem in the first year of a planting, and sometimes the second year of the planting as well. Unfortunately, however, many wildflower plantings are ruined after only a few months when aggressive annual weeds are a problem in the first year; there may be no second year.

Once again, check with your local authorities for tips about reducing annual weed seed in the soil, or planning your seeding to avoid the prime germination periods of the most troublesome annual weeds. In certain regions of the U.S., particularly in the Southern Plains, no-till seeding methods can significantly reduce weed infestation. Unfortunately, no-till seeders designed for use with wildflower seed are very costly.

(Editor's Note: This article was reprinted with permission from the USGA Green Section Record. 1996 March/April Vol 34(2): 8-11. John M. Krouse teaches and does research in the Department of Agronomy at the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland.)



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SEPTEMBER 2000 HOLE NOTES 25

MGCSA JOB REFERRAL QUESTIONNAIRE

REQUIREMENTS FOR JOB POSTINGS THROUGH THE MGCSA

The Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association will send out your job opening if the following three requirements are met. 1) All job openings require a **salary bracket** when posted (\$30,000 minimum salary for a superintendent). 2) MGCSA and GCSAA **membership dues** must be paid for by the club. 3) Expenses paid for **educational seminars**.

Please fill out this questionaire and return to: MGCSA, P.O. Box 617, Wayzata, MN 55391 or Fax (612) 473-0576.

COMPLETE ENTIRE FORM

TITL	E OF POSITION						
WHE	EN AVAILABLE						
COL	JRSE NAME						
COL	JRSE ADDRESS						
CITY	ۍ	STATE ZIP CODE					
1.	To whom should interested persons refer inquiries concerning this position?						
	NAME						
	ADDRESS						
	CITY	STATE ZIP CODE					
	PHONE FAX						
	IS PHONE NUMBER TO BE PUBLISHED? YES NO						
2.	Duties: (Check Those Applicable)						
	 □ Golf Course Maintenance □ Golf Course Budget □ Purchasing Responsibility □ Clubhouse Lawns □ Flower Gardens □ Trees & Shrubbery □ Maintenance of Golf Cart Fleet □ Tennis Court Maintenance □ Swimming Pool Operations □ Other 	 □ Bowling Green □ Polo Grounds □ Plant Nursery □ Greenhouse □ Pro-Shop Management □ Clubhouse Building Maintenance □ Recreation Area □ Utilities Operation □ Club Management 					
3.	To whom will the (Assistant) Superintendent be directly responsi						
	Name Title _						
4.	Type of Course Operation: (Check Those Applicable)						
	 □ Private Membership □ Daily Fee-Private □ Open Yr. Round □ Resort 	Ĭ .					
5.	Course Description:						
	a. Number of Holes						
	b. Course Yardage:						
	c. Type of Grass: Greens,	Tees,Fairways					
	d Irrigation System: Automatic Semi-Automatic	☐ Manual (Continued on Page 20)					

26 HOLE NOTES SEPTEMBER 2000

ROOT REVIVE ...

will increase the turf's ability to utilize available nutrients and moisture in the soil.

How Does It Work?

ROOT REVIVE contains naturally occurring mycorrhizal fungal spores that germinate and penetrate a plant's roots. The mycorrhizal fungi send out additional hyphae that act as a "secondary root system".

These microscopic hyphae search out **additional moisture and nutrients** that a plant cannot find with its normal root system. This symbiotic relationship increases plant growth to create a plant that is **more resistant to stress**.



A micrograph shows the intricate anatomy of mycorrhizae within the plant root.

What Can You Expect?

Increased Plant Growth and Appearance

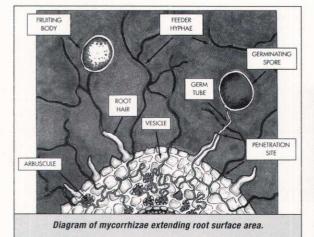
Plants achieve more growth in a shorter period of time and are less likely to suffer from nutrient deficiencies and environmental stresses.

Better Developed Root System

The additional hyphae can increase the root surface area by 10 to 1000 times...that's up to 1000 more opportunities to find additional water and nutrients in the soil.

Reduced Effects of Stress

High soil pH and salt content conditions can tie up valuable nutrients and water. Inoculated plants are more tolerant of drought and compaction and better able to resist invading plant pathogens.





University of Rhode Island researchers found that Root Revive increased the drought tolerance of creeping bentgrass.

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Industry News

GCSAA Certification Program

Since 1971, GCSAA's Certification Program has provided golf course superintendents with an established and challenging means of measuring their professional and continuing educational accomplishments. To earn the CGCS (Certified Golf Course Superintendent) designation, a superintendent must qualify with education and experience and successfully complete a written examination and an on-site inspection of his/her golf facility. Currently, there are more than 1,700 certified superintendents worldwide.

Affiliated chapters are encouraged to promote the certification program to their members. Does your chapter wish to apply for continuing education units (CEUs) or professional development units (PDUs) for an event? If so, please send your request for an application to Penny Mitchell, senior manager of certification.

Certification Attestor Liaisons

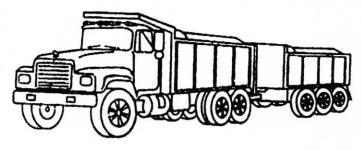
An attestor training video has been developed to help

CGCSs and certification applicants understand the process for the on-site course inspection, which is one component in completing certification. You may wish to view the video or show it at a chapter meeting. If you'd like to share a copy of the video with members of your chapter, send your request to mbrhelp@gcsaa.org. If you have questions about the certification program, please contact Penny Mitchell, senior manager of certification.

Simplot Purchases Turf Partners

Eco-Soil Systems, Inc. announced July 31, 2000 that it had completed the sale of its subsidiary Turf Partners to the J.R. Simplot Company. "To represent this union of Simplot and Turf Partners, the company's name will change to Simplot Partners," explained Nick Spardy, General Manager of Simplot Partners. "I believe that Simplot Partners will soon be known as the premier company providing a wide portfolio of fertilizer, seed, chemicals and biologicals for the turf and horticulture markets."

Chris Hoff, Warehouse Manager for Simplot Partners in Roseville, remarked, "Our office is extremely excited about this transaction. We see nothing but benefits as a result of this union. Our customers should notice little difference in our product offering and only improved customer service in the future." If anyone has questions our concerns, feel free to contact Simplot Partners Roseville office at 888-828-5354 or speak with your Simplot Representative directly.



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28 HOLE NOTES SEPTEMBER 2000

SHADES OF GREEN:

Time to Put On a Coat of Class

By JOEL JACKSON

Dress codes requiring mandatory coats and ties or jackets for local chapter meetings still have value for image enhancement of the modern superintendent. However, there seems to be a ripple of resistance to this long-standing tradition that's spreading across the land. There's no doubt that casual dress is gaining a foothold in the business and social world in which we live. Casual Fridays are popular at many companies nationwide. So does wearing a jacket and slacks instead of jeans and taking off a hat indoors have any impact on a superintendent's image? The answer is still yes.

In this age of declining participation at local chapter meetings, the dress code is often not enforced. Chapters need to either enforce the dress code, modify it or abolish it.

No matter what dress code a chapter has adopted — jackets or no jackets — it seems some superintendents and suppliers still don't get it. Even if jackets aren't required, people keep showing up in jeans, sneakers and hats. Some people refuse to wear ties, and others claim they don't own suits or jackets. Some wear their hats indoors, outdoors, upside down and backwards.

Some folks are just plain mavericks, while others seem to have simply never been taught the basics of etiquette and manners.

As much as associations want to be inclusive, maybe some of these folks need to stay home until they can learn to sacrifice a little individualism for the good of the group. You don't have to be a clone to wear a jacket and leave your hat in the truck.

These folks put chapter leaders in a tough situation. Nobody wants to tell a fellow superintendent that he or she needs to leave a meeting because he or she is not in compliance with the dress code.

I've never seen someone asked to leave a meeting because of that, but some of the older Northern chapters don't have any qualms about telling a violator to scram until he or she can dig up the proper clothing and stay for the mandatory dinner.

I agree with the old adage, "You can't judge a book by its cover." However, there are certainly some book covers that turn me off or give me an indication that I'm probably not interested in the content. Maybe that could be considered superficial. When I walk down the bookstore aisle and see the book covers, however, I get preliminary messages about their content.

It's not a fair evaluation of the plot or the writing, but I do get a sense about the book — a first impression. That's all a book cover can give me — an instantaneous image of what might be inside — and the message is sent immediately.

What message do you and your chapter send? It's likely that a group of professionals wearing jackets in a public setting sends the message that:

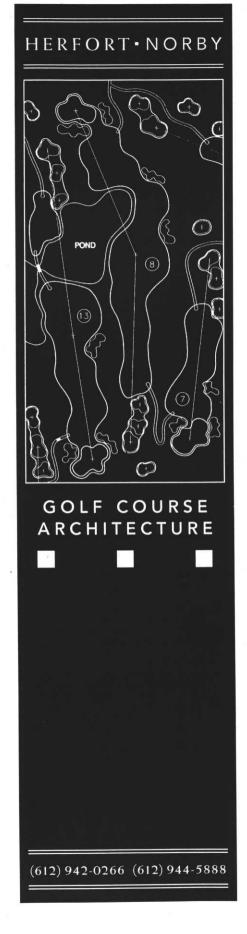
They are a group of people to be taken seriously.

They are a group of people meeting with a purpose in mind.

They are a group of people showing respect for the host, the profession and its history.

Not wearing a jacket doesn't necessarily mean disrespect, but wearing one does elevate and promote an onlooker's perception by the very nature of the mode of dress.

It's a small price to pay for projecting a positive image about superintendents as professionals.



SEPTEMBER 2000 HOLE NOTES 29

MGCSA JOB REFERRAL QUESTIONNAIRE

(Continued from Page 26)

6.	Annual Basic Salary Bracket: From \$ to to (REQUIRED FOR POSTING)						
7.	Number of Employees: Summer Winter						
8.	Who is the present superintendent (or last)?						
	a. Why did (will) this person leave?						
	b. If present superintendent is still on job, has this person been notified?						
	Phone # to contact this person?						
	c. Is this person a member of GCSAA?						
9.	Benefits (Check Those Applicable)						
	 MGCSA Membership Dues Paid. (REQUIRED FOR POSTING) □ GCSAA Membership Dues Paid. (REQUIRED FOR POSTING) □ Expenses involved in attending Regional Educational Seminars. (REQUIRED FOR POSTING) □ Expenses involved in attending GCSAA International Conference & Show. □ Club-Paid Life Insurance □ Club-Paid Health Insurance □ Paid Annual Vacation: Number of days per year □ Paid Annual Sick Leave: Number of days per year □ Pension Plan □ Vehicle Provided □ Transportation and/or Vehicle Allowance 						
10.	Housing (Check Those Applicable)						
	 ☐ House On, or Near Club Grounds ☐ Furnished ☐ Housing Allowance ☐ Vearly Amount Number of Rooms Utilities Paid Yearly Amount						
11.	What is the anticipated annual maintenance budget? \$						
12.	Personal Requirements:						
	a. Education & Training, etc:						
	b. Experience Required:						
	c. Other:						
4.0	Will and the state of the state						
13.	Committee of the Commit						
14.	Application Deadline?						
15.	Additional Information:						

30 HOLE NOTES SEPTEMBER 2000