

Effortless Beauty—

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American hornbeam or musclewood presents an option for providing brilliant fall color on a smaller scale. It occurs naturally as an understory species, rarely exceeding 30 feet in height. It often is broader than tall and forms multiple trunks, playing up its beautiful, smooth bark. The tight-fitting bark in conjunction with fluted or corded branches are evocative of well-muscled human limbs, hence the common name of musclewood. Although tolerant of shade, the canopy does not grow as dense nor does the fall color develop as fully as when it grows in full sun. The key to keeping this species healthy and low-maintenance is to place it where it receives sufficient moisture.

Regardless of whether it develops fall color, this species' summer character is reason enough to use it. Its growth habit is refined, and its fine-textured foliage is interspersed with pendulous clusters of fruit. These 2- to 4-inch-long "Chinese lanterns" also change color with the seasons and may persist after leaf drop. The amount of flowering and seedset varies considerably from year to year.

* Cornelian cherry dogwood is another smallish, often multiple-trunked tree deserving greater use. It is quite versatile, growing in a variety of soil types and pH levels, and in full sun or partial shade. Its long-lasting clusters of cheerful yellow flowers (see photo, above left) are welcome in early spring when they appear with or even before the earliest forsythias. The leaves are a glossy, dark green that combine beautifully with the bright-red fruit, which ripen in July. The bark is not quite as attractive as the closely related (and less-available) Japanese Cornelian cherry dogwood (*Cornus officinalis*), but the tastier fruits and less-congested branching pattern compensate for this. By choosing cultivars selected for their tree-like tendencies and properly pruning young trees, your specimens will become delightful small trees rather than large shrubs.

* The Turkish treehazel has experienced a rise in popularity lately, but designers often still ignore it in many situations where it would be an asset. This low-growing member of the birch family is tolerant of drought, heavy soils, extremes in temperatures and a broad range of soil pH. Its horizontal branching and tough wood make it resistant to wind and ice damage. Its ornamental features include its stately pyramidal shape, coarsely furrowed bark and the early spring display of its pendulous, yellow, male catkins. In the more northerly portions of its range, low temperatures may kill the flowers—even though its vegetative portions are completely hardy—eliminating any catkin display or nut production.

Hazels do not set seed if self-pollinated and rarely do so with pollen from a sibling. Thus, unless you plant unrelated individuals together, they will produce few of their tasty nuts. However, you can exploit this trait if you prefer to avoid dealing with the interesting, but spiny, nut clusters.

Unlike many nut trees, this species doesn't form an

extensive tap root and transplants relatively easily if you provide it with supplemental water during its first couple of years of establishment. Difficulties in propagation result in lower availability and higher cost. Its durability and elegant presence, however, make it well worth the effort to acquire and establish.

* Ironwood or American hophornbeam, another member of the birch family, is in many ways a smaller version of the Turkish treehazel. Although it doesn't take heavy soils quite as well as the treehazel, ironwood tolerates drought, wind, ice and temperature extremes. It grows slowly, starting out with a pyramidal form, but fills out to become more rounded with maturity. The bark is fine textured, peeling off in thin vertical strips.

Its flowers and fruits are quite different from the Turkish treehazel, however. The male catkins are clustered in groups of three at the branch tips instead of being distributed individually. The nutlets are small and borne in an elongated cluster, each encased in a papery pouch. Hairs that can irritate the skin cover these fruit clusters.

Another characteristic of note is the observation that deer browse on ironwood casually but do not prefer it as a forage. In areas where large deer populations threaten unprotected plantings, this feature should prompt landscapers to take a closer look at this species.

* Callery pear possess several strengths that make it valuable in tough urban settings. 'Bradford' callery pear has been planted widely, and the cultivar name became synonymous with the species to many people. When many 'Bradford' pears reached maturity and began to break apart due to poor branching structure, the entire species got a bad name. However, breeders have selected cultivars of callery pear with improved branching structure as well as better cold hardiness (another weakness of 'Bradford' pears).

The species tolerates a wide range of soil conditions including drought and poorly drained, low-oxygen conditions. In addition, its flower display, glossy foliage, breath-taking fall color and uniform growth habit give it ornamental value in all seasons. The problems of thorniness, firelight susceptibility and fruit litter—serious in some other pear species—are minimal in callery pear but vary with the cultivar. Cultivars are available with another desirable trait for planting sites of limited size: a narrowly upright growth habit (see photo, page 14, middle).

Be aware when choosing a cultivar that some selections assume their fall color earlier than others. This is especially important for northern sites where frost can occur before fall color has developed on the late cultivars. If you intend to use callery pear in the North, be sure to choose a cultivar that colors relatively early in the fall.

* My last selection is 'China Peking lilac (*Syringa pekinensis* 'Morton' or 'Watertower'). Besides meeting low maintenance criteria, this species is a prime example of a tree with highly ornamental bark. Its interesting bark color and texture increase its attractiveness year round but are

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Effortless Beauty—

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especially nice during the Midwest's long winters. The bark starts out with a mahogany color that appears to be polished smooth, sprinkled with corky, beige lenticels. It adds greater interest with age when it begins to peel horizontally (see photo, page 17), similar to paper birch. Another ornamental feature is the large clusters of cream-colored, lightly fragrant flowers that bloom in June (in Northern areas). The species contains considerable variation in bark character, but breeders have selected 'China Snow' for its consistently ornamental bark.

No one has yet determined the northern limit of this recently introduced cultivar. Though the species is generally less winter-hardy than the closely related Japanese tree lilac (*Syringa reticulata*), certain seed sources are hardy at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. In addition, data from the Morton Arboretum indicate that it is more drought-tolerant than its Japanese relative. Although perhaps not appropriate for the toughest of sites, this selection will add summer bloom and year-round interest to a well-drained sunny site with minimal maintenance.

(Editor's Note: Dr. Susan Wiegrefe is a research tree breeder for the Morton Arboretum, Lisle IL)

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HOST SUPERINTENDENT BOB DISTEL tees off on No. 3 at Wayzata Country Club during the MGCSA Championship on August 20.



BLASTING OUT OF BUNKERS was a common occurrence at the MGCSA Championship. Pictured above is Scott Weltzin, CGCS, Pheasant Acres Golf Club. Pictured below is Jay Monson of North Star Turf.



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Managing Local Issues—

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Trade Press Contacts

Consider informing the trade press about the issue. The trade press can be a great ally in communicating to others in the industry, and the information could help superintendents facing similar issues in other parts of the country.

Organize Community Relations

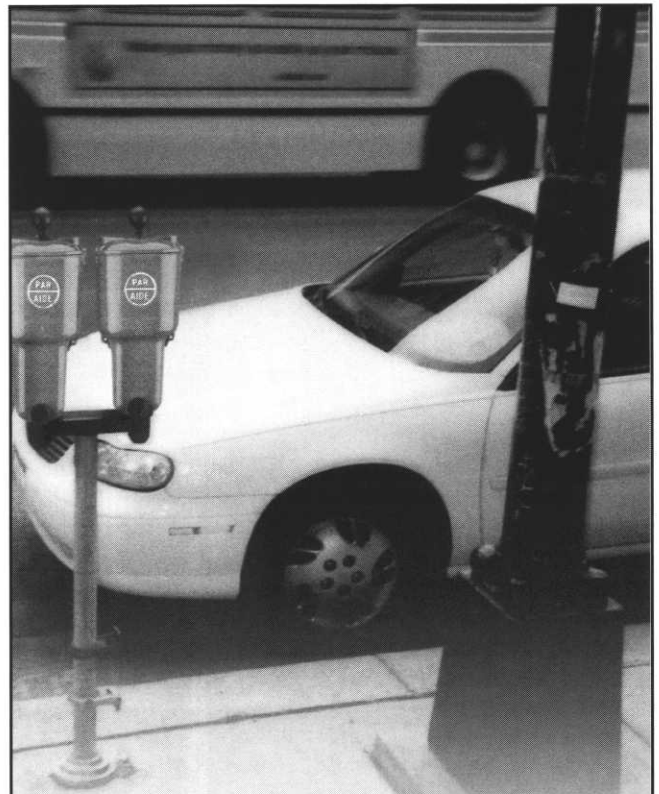
Many civic organizations such as Kiwanis and Rotary clubs allow guest speakers to address meetings on specific issues. This is a great way to reach community decision-makers and business people. The GCSAA government relations department can help you prepare for a presentation.

On-going Issue Management

Should the issue be a long-term situation, identify one person to be the "key contact." This person can help coordinate correspondence, watch for issue developments, and serve as the go-to contact for the rest of the group. This person should be local and have a strong interest in the situation. The issue may "drag" over time, making it difficult to maintain high action interest by coalition members. Regular updates and communication to the coalition will keep them alert to the issue.

For help managing local issues, contact the GCSAA government relations department at (800) 472-7878, or e-mail at grmail@gcsaa.org.

(Editor's Note: This document was adapted from the Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE) guide to "Managing Local Issues." Reprinted with permission from RISE, 1156 Fifteenth Street NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20005.)



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GCSAA Celebrates 30th Year of Certification Program

Thirty years ago the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) began a certification program to help superintendents substantiate their work experience and level of continuing education. The Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) designation was designed to recognize these accomplishments as well as the superintendent's expanding knowledge of the golf industry.

In June 1971, the certification program opened for applications from GCSAA members. Since its inception, the program has certified nearly 2,600 superintendents, maintains an average of 100 applicants a year and is now approaching 1,800 active certified superintendents.

"We are very proud of our certification program and what it has meant to our members," said Mark Woodward,

"Those who choose to become certified are widely recognized leaders in our profession. Although the intent of the program has not changed dramatically in 30 years, we are continually looking for ways to improve the program and increase its value to our members, their employers and the game of golf."

CGCS and chairman of GCSAA's certification committee. "Those who choose to become certified are widely recognized leaders in our profession. Although the intent of the program has not changed dramatically in 30 years, we are continually looking for ways to improve the program and increase its value to our members, their employers and the game of golf."

GCSAA's certification committee is challenged with a continual review and update of the certification program in order to keep the established standards current with the industry. It is currently undertaking an initiative to restructure the certification program to validate superintendent competencies based on those defined through GCSAA's professional development initiative. The target date for restructuring completion is July 2003.

Two golf course superintendents entered the program in its infancy stage. They too, will celebrate their 30th anniversary as certified golf course superintendents. For continuing their CGCS status, Garold M. Murphy, CGCS, and Palmer Maples Jr., CGCS, will be presented with certification plaques by Woodward at the association's 75th Anniversary reception and grand gala on Sept. 13, in at Union Station, Kansas City, Mo.

Murphy is a 41-year GCSAA member. He is the golf course superintendent at the Somerset Country Club in Mendota Heights, Minn. He stands alone as the only CGCS to be recognized for maintaining certified status through the completion of six renewal periods and still be actively employed as a golf course superintendent.

Maples is a retired 42-year GCSAA member from Lawrenceville, Ga. Since his retirement, Maples opted to continue meeting the requirements of certification renewal and completed six five-year renewal periods. Maples is a past GCSAA president, serving in 1975. In addition, he received a USGA Green Section Award in 2000.

Since 1926, GCSAA has been the leading professional association for the men and women who manage and maintain golf facilities in the United States and worldwide.

Visit the GCSAA online at www.GCSAA.org or www.GolfSuper.com.

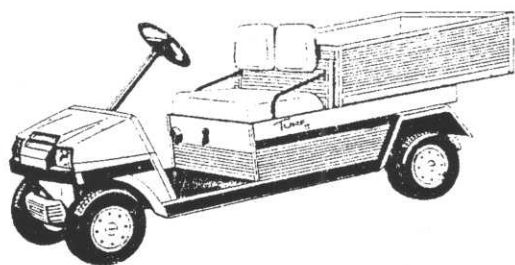
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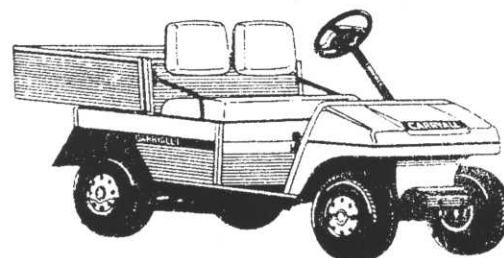


HOST SUPERINTENDENT BOB DISTEL, far right, and his staff had Wayzata Country Club in top shape for the MGCSA Championship on August 20. Pictured with Bob from left to right are: Assistant Superintendent Steve Roxberg, Brent Berkovitz, Second Assistant Mike Harrington, Donovan Peterson and Steffen Gotzmann.

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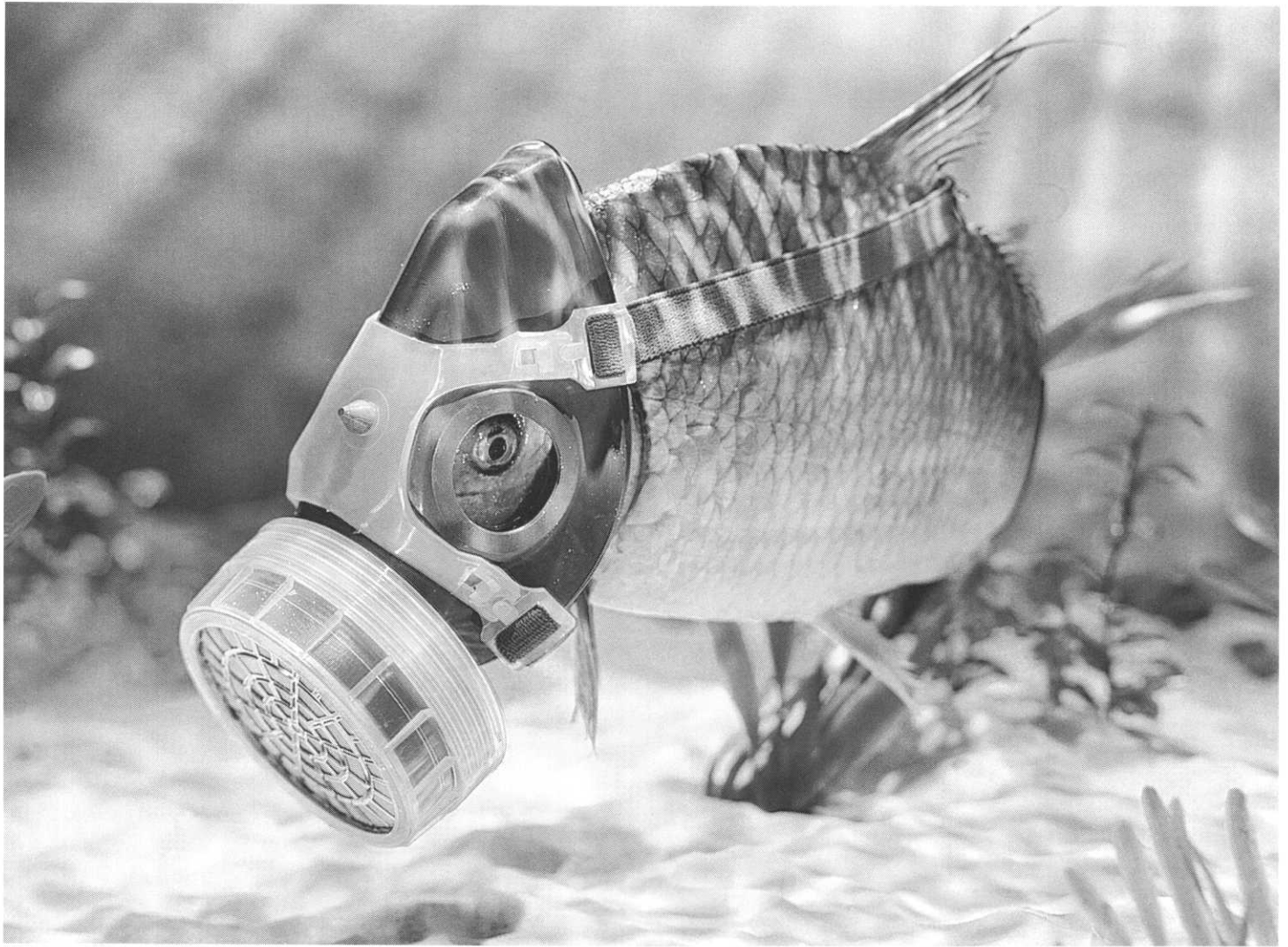


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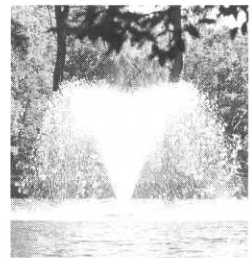
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NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL UPDATE

By **BOB BRAME**
Director, North Central Region

The more things change, the more they stay the same. Despite all our wonderful technology in today's golf turf management, weather is still the number one factor in determining turf quality and playability. Most areas of the region experienced a quick snap to cold last November, which brought on some winter-related injuries. The winter-related weather concerns, in most cases, tied to either drainage limitations or newly planted areas that simply did not have a chance to mature before the cold hit.

Early this spring we experienced warm temperatures and very dry weather coming out of the winter. Since the nighttime temperatures continued to fall back during this time soil temperatures remained low, and consistent growth was simply not occurring. The next twist was the wet weather pattern, which lingered for a few weeks and compromised most maintenance efforts moving into mid-spring. More recently, the weather patterns have become a bit more typical with the heat and humidity we've come to expect in late spring moving into early summer. The combination does pose the question, what's next? If Mother Nature combines hot and wet in the days ahead all of what we've been through over the last few months will be dwarfed in comparison.

Ultimately, the possibility of harsh weather is one of the primary reasons why we do things like aeration, tree removal, sound fertilization that includes spoon-feeding through the summer, and establish mowing heights that balance health and playability. While it's always possible to get away with less than solid efforts

in one of these areas, harsh weather becomes the day of reckoning. Hopefully we won't experience tough weather ahead, but it's also hoped that your maintenance program has prepared for the worst.

Dollar spot disease activity continues to be an issue throughout the region. In fact, for a number of courses the intensity seems to have picked up where it left off last year. While minimizing dollar spot disease damage, consider the amount of water used as a carrier with fungicide applications. Equally, reduce the time of leaf wetness in the morning by dragging dew. It's also been reported by a number of superintendents that better control is achieved by spraying fairly dry turf as opposed to over spraying dew. Further, maintain a preventative posture with dollar spot disease control as the problem is much more difficult to handle once inoculum builds up. In this case, preventative is IPM at its best. A curative approach will often require a higher fungicide input and still yield poor control.

The beetles are flying through most areas of the region, and as such, grub control needs to be finalized. Last year a number of courses applied insecticides too early, and as a result experienced damage in late summer/early fall. Carefully consider timing relative to the targeted pests and product being used.

Remember, as we move into the summer months, keep it as dry as applicable variables allow. Hopefully, Mother Nature will aid our efforts.

(Editor's Note: Bob Brame may be reached at (859) 356-3272.

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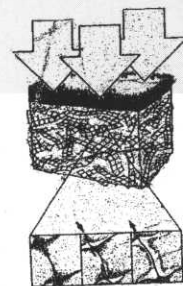
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Paul Eckholm, CGCS, Heritage Links Golf Club. epeckholm@msn.com

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