

service of the steering and brakes and the consequences he could be faced with as well as yourself if a lawsuit should come about and be traced back to the mechanical failures of the cart.

Last but not least, talk to your greens chairman and check on the club insurance policies to be sure that you are personally protected in any legal action involving cart accidents. Find out if each cart user signs a release of liability for any personal injury incurred during the use of the golf cart on the golf course. Get your protection program started now while the season is still early.

Contact the AGCMA for their safety suggestions and safety decals for carts.

American Golf Car Manufacturers Assoc.

734 15th St., N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20005

Craig Spottswood
Editor

COMMENT

While reading the many press releases and publicity we received from the Cincinnati and national newspapers concerning our conference the following in the National Observer struck my attention - "Courses are Becoming too Manicured".

According to the insert the majority of the superintendents feel courses will become even more manicured because that's the way the golfer wants them. Now I ask you, what's wrong with that? One veteran superintendent stated, "We're going to do what those players want 'cause if people aren't playing golf they're not going to need us around much longer." Isn't the golfer right in his quest for perfection, but how about the superintendent? One could get the impression some of us manicured our courses because we have to, not because we want to. The days of the "cow pasture course" are over and if a man is satisfied with that type of condition his dreams and visions, if he ever had any, have come to a halt.

First the golfer only demanded good greens, then greenlike tees, fairways and now some are demanding perfect roughs. Under the heavy traffic and adverse conditions we face today maybe he is asking too much, but how about our sense of pride and accomplishment?

Superintendent Sherwood Moore once had a member tell him, "I wish I loved my job the way you do yours." Most of us can relate to the above so shouldn't we strive for that perfection. Let the golfer set the goal and we can perfect it.

What would your reply be if one day a crew

member came to you and said, "Mr. Jones, ever since you came here why are we always tearing something up on the course?" If you say, "As long as I'm here there will be something torn up" you are striving to reach that goal of perfection as professional turf men.

Ed Heath
Editor

COMMON COMPLAINTS

Now that another season is upon us, maybe it would be a good idea to check the common complaints of the golfer, superintendent and worker so a better relationship can be achieved.

THE GOLFER:

1. Tees are not level, not smooth
2. Tee markers are not moved often enough
- grass cover too sparse
3. Tee markers are placed too close to one another
4. Tee markers are not squared away with the correct line of flight
5. Pin placements are unfair at times
6. Pin placements (cups) are moved too infrequently. Grass is sparse around cups or long and scraggly at perimeter of cups.
7. Cups are not replaced properly - sometimes too low, or too high or too near last cup placement
8. Greens bumpy - not perfectly true
9. Too much grain, mat, or thatch in greens
10. Greens too soft or too hard - ball marks numerous and repaired badly - wonder whose responsibility that is!
11. Traps raked inadequately or not at all
12. Traps edged improperly or unfairly - traps constructed so that they restrict backswing are most unfair
13. Roughs too lush near edge of fairways
15. Roads through course too numerous - made by constant traffic or course equipment
15. Clean towels for ball washers not replaced often enough

SUPERINTENDENT & WORKERS:

In return, the superintendent and the workers ask primarily for understanding and appreciation from the membership which

frequently is reflected in the way the member conducts himself on the course. If the member is careless in littering the course, in dragging his feet over greens, in burning greens with cigarettes, in taking divots unnecessarily, in failing to repair ball marks, in recklessly working though traps, in driving electric cars in restricted areas and numerous other minor but thoughtless acts, then the worker can only interpret these things to mean his efforts are not appreciated.

QUOTE FROM DR. POWELL

Dr. A. J. Powell, turf specialist at Virginia Tech, formerly with the University of Maryland was quoted in The Evening Star Newspaper this month concerning an article, "Bluegrass Can be Kept Green" by Wilbur H. Youngman. Dr. Powell told the homeowner about the stress periods of blue grass and how important it is to provide a proper management program regarding all aspects of lawn care.



THE BEAUTY OF TREES

The following article was submitted by Carl Schoening, Chief Horticulturist for The Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission.

Trees are perhaps the largest single factor which enhance our golf courses. Trees contribute grace and beauty to the landscape; afford a natural screen for objectionable views, wind and noise

abatement and provide cooling restful shade on sun-drenched summer days.

Much of the charm of an older, well established golf course lies in the large eye-appealing mature trees outlining the fairways, framing the greens and shading the clubhouse.

The selection of trees for your golf course is an important and long lasting decision and one that should be given due consideration and research. Considerable time, effort and money can be spent in planting and caring for trees - therefore, you should formulate your plans in advance for your tree planting effort. Trees may be selected for a variety of reasons - mature form and size, flowering characteristics, fall coloration, fruiting characteristics, winter effectiveness, screening ability, disease resistance and site adaptability, such as for wind resistance or for wet or extremely dry situations. Thought should be given as to whether you desire a specimen tree or are selecting trees for mass or group plantings. Other factors to consider in selecting shade or ornamental trees would be limiting your choice to trees of reliable hardiness in your locale; determining the mature size as you appraise rate of growth and longevity; selecting the form that is best suited for the intended use; and determining the availability of the trees you have chosen from your preferred nursery source.

Trees with undesirable characteristics, such as fruits that produce an objectionable odor, insect and disease susceptibility, brittleness, shallow root systems, and trees that produce an abundance of seed that tend to sprout in lawns and flowerbeds are best to be avoided in your original selection.

Even though your golf course may have many fine trees there may be good reasons for planting additional flowering trees as background plantings for greens; for fairway delineation; and to increase the degree of difficulty or to change the appearance of a golf hole. Flowering trees are outstanding planted in odd numbered groups of 3, 5, 7 or 9, and against a background of evergreen trees for full effectiveness.

Evergreen trees, such as Hemlock, Spruce, Fir and Pines, should represent a high percentage of the trees on your course, especially used for winter effect, as screen planting and background trees.

Plan to do your tree planting in the late fall or early spring when the shade and flowering trees