

Eckhoff Moves to Florida

Harry Eckhoff, former Mid Atlantic Director of the National Golf Foundation has recently joined the National Headquarters staff in their new offices at 200 North Castlewood Drive, North Palm Beach, Florida, 33408. Along with his change of address, Harry sent a National Golf Foundation Golf Market Report, in which he has an active part as he edits and compiles the NGF Field Staff Notes.

Harry wishes to be remembered to all of his friends in the Mid Atlantic, and has asked that if anyone comes to Florida, please look him up in the new NGF headquarters in North Palm Beach.



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Trees Are Like People

by Ted Horton
Metropolitan New York Newsletter

Noting that "some trees, like human beings, just won't do well in your neighborhood—for no particular reason," Dr. Spencer Davis of Rutgers University addressed the members of the M.G.C.S.A. at the Pelham Country Club. His speech was presented with slides to illustrate "the care of trees and ornamentals on the golf course." Dr. Davis humorously noted that "trees are like people—they may come from seeds of the same parent but each of the offspring will differ from the other."

With the above in mind, Dr. Davis proceeded to discuss some of the numerous problems which we might encounter with golf course trees and ornamentals:

1. Trees will die if the soil is either too wet or too dry. In particular, many *Taxus* plants appeared to collapse this spring because of the heavy rains experienced in August and September of 1975.

2. Winter injury, especially on the south side of dark-barked trees was noticeable this spring. This is generally "because of extremes in day and night temperatures, during the winter (causing cambium injury or sun scald.) on the southerly side of the tree trunk."

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3. Soil pH is important. Remember that Taxus likes an alkaline soil whereas, Rhododendron, Azalea and Pin Oak require acidic soils. Often these plants are used together in the landscape requiring a compromise in soil pH. Dr. Davis further suggested that we not overlook the use of Iron Sulfate or Chelated Irons to achieve "green up" on some of the ornamentals.

4. In plant problem diagnostic work consider the possibility of "soil poisons." For example, if the needles of White Pine are brown on the inside but the tip is green, generally, a chemical such as Sodium Arsenite has been applied around the plant.

5. Natural gas will not kill plants. But, manufactured gas sent through the same utility lines during peak load periods will injure plants. If no other logical explanation exists for deterioration of a plant but there has been a gas leak up to 100 feet away—consider this possibility. "Gas can seep horizontally for a considerable distance through the ground trapped below hardpan until released near the plant in question."

6. Plants will often die near waste or landfill areas. The methane of soil gas produced from decomposition of waste can travel up to two or three hundred yards below the soil to injure or kill neighboring trees or shrubs.

7. Mechanical damage to trees was briefly reviewed by Dr. Davis. It was suggested that if a tree has the appearance of a telephone pole going into the soil we should examine for girdling roots. Dr. Davis urged that we not plant container grown plants as they often tend to have girdling roots at a later date.

8. In the past, nursery plants had roots wrapped with sisal and hemp. These products readily rotted once the plant was set in place. However, the failure to cut away all of the plastic materials used on root balls today will result in the decline of a newly planted tree. The roots are unable to penetrate the material to become established in the soil.

9. Air pollution has become a problem on trees and ornamentals. It was pointed out that we may find 5 to 7% of White Pines not doing well because it has been found that they are susceptible to ozone and sulfur

dioxide in the air. These pollutants result in what are called "chlorotic dwarf plants." Because the plants will never do better, they should be removed and replaced. An aldehyde pollutant is suspected to produce discoloration of Austrian Pines. Again, Dr. Davis noted, "each plant responds differently to these pollutants."

10. Wood preservatives can be a problem. Plants near wooden fences, railroad ties or other wooden products treated with preservatives such as pentachlorophenol or creosote may be injured by fumes from these materials.

11. Salt sprays on ocean side courses will kill the growing buds of plants. Usually, only the side of the tree facing the wind be affected, resulting in a peculiar one-sided plant. Roadside trees are "occasionally injured by salt used during the winter to remove ice from pavements. Roots are killed when the ice thaws and the water carries the salt to the area of the tree roots."

12. Infectious diseases were then discussed by Dr. Davis. Four categories are noteworthy:

A. leafspot diseases such as Anthracnose and Apple Scab can best be controlled with fungicides such as Maneb, Fore or LSR. Three spring applications of one of the above fungicides to Firethorn and Hawthorn will help preserve the berries, leaves and flowers.

B. powdery mildews of roses, maples and lilacs can be controlled with summer applications of Benomyl or Karathane. Zinnias should be sprayed with Dithane M45 plus Benomyl to preserve them till frost. Leaf Blight of Dogwoods and Flower Blight of Rhododendrons and Azaleas can be treated with Benomyl.

C. rust diseases of Cedar, Apple and Hawthorns should be treated with Ferbam, Maneb or Zineb.

D. soil borne diseases should be controlled by a soil sterilant such as Vapam before planting.

In summary, Dr. Davis emphasized that there are countless other causes for unhealthy trees but, most important of all, he noted, "that when we plant a tree or shrub—picture clearly what the plant will look like when fully mature."

Once again, thank you Dr. Davis for helping us to understand and better care for our trees and ornamentals on the golf course.



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