

Choosing a Tree Service for your Golf Course

by Gil Mitchell
Able Tree Surgeons, Inc.

Trees represent a high aesthetic and monetary value for any property, especially golf courses. Trees often contribute to the "challenge" of making par, the "aura" of a course, and can add to the attraction of one golf course over another.

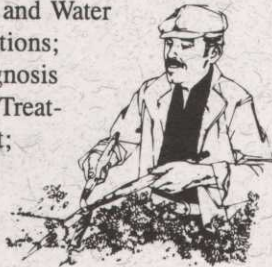
Choosing the proper resources to accomplish this task may seem overwhelming. Tree trimming should be done by people who have been trained in climbing and pruning trees, who do this type of work every day, and who are licensed and insured.

But where should you go to assure you hire the "right" company to trim your trees? Not many years ago, this was a tough questions to answer. Tree care was called the "invisible" profession. Not many people knew that companies specializing in tree care existed until they needed work done. Then, people usually chose the company with the largest ad in the yellow pages or who had an ad in the local "freebie"

newspaper.

Over the last few years, the tree care industry (also known as arboriculture), and the State of California, have made a concerted effort to upgrade the profession.

In 1984, the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), which comprises California, Nevada, Arizona, and Hawaii, sponsored a certification program for arborists and tree workers. The purpose of the program was to provide a means for people in tree care to express their knowledge, and for the public to use as a benchmark for professionalism. The certification program is now handled by the main office of ISA which is located in Savoy, Illinois. To become a certified arborist a person has to pass a test consisting of 200 multiple choice questions in the following ten categories: Tree identification and Selection; Soil and Water Relations; Diagnosis and Treatment; Tree



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UPCOMING SEMINARS

Mechanics Workshop

March 14, 1994.
Castlewood Country Club maintenance shop.

A hands-on workshop featuring Ben Showard of Turf Equipment Services.

pesticide laws and regulations, and prevent unnecessary use of pesticides. \$45 per person pre-registration, \$55 late registration
March 17
Stockton Hilton, Stockton

Integrated Turfgrass Pest Mgmt for Professionals

April 26 - 27, 1994
9:00am - 4:00pm
University Club, UC Davis
\$175.00
for more info call Sandra Cooper at (916) 757-8948

March 29
Foothill College,
Los Altos Hills

April 14
Holiday Inn
Union City

for more information call
(408) 442-3536

Automatic Rain Turf Day '94

April 13, 1994
Alameda County Fairgrounds Pleasanton
for more information contact Pam Grady at (415) 323-5161

California Urban Forests Council
Annual Conference
March 18-19
UC, Berkeley
for more information call
(415) 553-5977

PAPA Pesticide Applicators Seminars

To provide up-to-date information on applying pesticides to maximize safety of the applicator and the public and minimize environmental hazards, understand

California Interior Plantscape Association
CalScape Expo 94
March 24-25
San Francisco
for more information call
(415) 364-5241

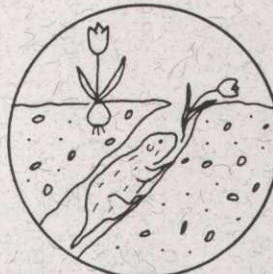
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BYLAWS CHANGES*Continued from page 2*

applicant for Class A or B membership will be required to pass a written and/or oral examination which has been approved by the Board of Directors, except the Board may waive examinations for those Class A or B members of a GCSA chapter that requires testing for both classifications and have been active members of that association for a minimum of three years. *The Board may grant Class A-Life or Class A status to those members of the Association that have met all other qualifications except examination, after a period of six (6) years.*

These proposed changes have been submitted to the Secretary/Treasurer and will

appear on the ballot at the Annual Meeting. Please consider them carefully.

NEWSLETTERS*Continued from page 4*

to the members and that it is the responsibility of Adams Publishing to spearhead an advertising campaign that will increase advertising revenues on a more measurable basis.

It was also agreed that the local superintendents should do everything in their power to let their reps know they've seen ads in the magazine and if their purchasing has been influenced by these ads.

CHOOSING A TREE SERVICE*Continued from page 3*

Biology; Pruning; Installation and Establishment; Safety and Climbing; Nutrition and Fertilization; Trees, People, and Ecology; and Cabling and Bracing. A list of certified arborists and tree workers can be obtained from the ISA office or from your local University of California Cooperative Extension office.

In addition to certification with the ISA, membership in the National Arborists Association (NAA) is an indication of professionalism and a commitment to tree care. The NAA has an extensive library of training programs available to its members and many members use these programs on a regular basis.

As of January of 1992, the

State of California now requires a contractor's license for the performance of any tree work exceeding \$300.00. A contractor's license isn't necessarily an assurance of a company's performance, but it usually means that the company has adequate liability and worker's compensation insurance, pays payroll taxes for their employees, and runs their company in a business-like fashion.

Certification, contractor's license, membership in trade associations are all key criteria for selection of a tree service. The last piece of the puzzle is references. Ask for at least three references and follow up on these references. The trees on your property represent a lifetime investment and should be trimmed by qualified professionals.

**Tips from the USGA
Dreaded Diseases***by Pat Gross, USGA Agronomist*

Every year when I return from the GCSAA International Conference, I am grateful to be living and working in the Southwestern United States. During the conference, I hear superintendents from other parts of the country describe the tremendous disease and insect pressures they face on their courses throughout the year. It doesn't sound like much fun! We are fortunate to have lower disease pressures in the West, but that is not to say we don't get any diseases at all.

This month I wanted to share some ideas on disease management for those times when you do have to battle the mysterious creeping crud that is devouring your turf.

First, it is important to send a cup cutter sample of the damaged area to a diagnostic laboratory for an accurate identification. Sample the edge of the infected area and include a Polaroid photograph of the symptoms. Also, enclose a letter describing the symptoms, weather patterns, and cultural management programs.

Make a field diagnosis using your experience, diagnostic tools, and the most up-to-date references available.

Consider cultural factors such as mowing height, water application, shade and air circulation. The disease may only be a symptom of greater problems.

If a pesticide application is necessary, select the proper materials and apply according to manufacturers label directions and in accordance with any state and local regulations. If the pesticide you have applied does not control the disease, check your diagnosis - you may be treating for the wrong disease.

Try to treat individual greens as opposed to all eighteen or twenty greens. This is more economical and more consistent with proper IPM practices.

Don't spray if it is not necessary. Some diseases only cause cosmetic symptoms and will disappear with a change of weather. Try to determine how much damage you can tolerate before treatment is necessary, then, let common sense and good judgement be your guides.

It's also good to have reference books on hand to assist with field diagnosis. Here are a few I would recommend:

<i>Compendium of Turfgrass Diseases</i>	<i>A Guide to Integrated Control of Turfgrass Diseases</i>
Am. Phytopathological Soc	GCSAA Press
3340 Pilot Knob Rd.	1421 Research Park Dr.
St. Paul, MN 55121-2097	Lawrence, KS 66049-3859