

by the editorial staff, Weeds Trees & Turf

## A new name?

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America did an extensive survey of members last year. One of the statistics resulting from the survey was that 36 percent of the golf courses in the United States are nine-hole courses.

But an even more important statistic is that a very high percentage of golf course superintendents didn't like their title. Forty-five percent of the superintendents surveyed, in fact, preferred the title "golf course manager."

If this trend continues, it could present the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America with an interesting problem.

## Talking lawns on the train

Usually, as the train pulls out of the rail station and makes its way to New York City, the morning chatter centers on last night's Yankees game or the latest news from Wall Street.

But, during last May and June, the main topic of discussion was lawn care, thanks to Dr. Henry Indyk of Rutgers University.

Dr. Indyk, specialist in turf management at the university's Cook College, gave tips to commuters on how to take care of lawns. The seminars were a part of an on-board lecture series offered by New Jersey Transit.

The lectures, held on four different rail lines, were a success. In all, more than 400 commuters took advantage of the seminars, which were held in a designated rail car. "It certainly was a moving experience," said Dr. Indyk, playing on words. "It's a great idea, and it's probably the most unusual place I've given a lecture."

## Death of a lawn mower

Power lawn mowers are dying prematurely across the country, victims of owner abuse and neglect, according to a survey of mower-care professionals.

The poll—dubbed the "Mower Murder" survey by Autolite Spark Plugs—was taken at the Lawn and Garden Expo in Louisville, Ky. this past summer. Of 1,715 mower-care specialists queried, 20.8 responded.

A majority (50.4 percent) said that properly maintained mowers should last five to ten years. Nearly as many (42.9 percent) pegged it at 10 years or more. More than 80 percent said that most engine failures could be avoided with preventative maintenance.

Top causes of engine failure were, beginning with the most-cited:

- insufficient oil (89.4 percent)
- poor air filter maintenance (60.2 percent)
- striking rocks or objects with mowers (51.8 percent)
- old oil in the crankcase (47.1 percent) and
- overheating due to clogged cooling fins (37.5 percent).

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