

# 'The best' golf course superintendents

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■ By the nature of the game, golf course superintendents artificially produce the playing field. Like a test pilot, the best superintendents push "the envelope" of tolerances. They take pride in their artistic nature and use scientific technology to fulfill it. And, like in any other human enterprise or sport, under similar conditions and restrictions, some are more talented and do it much better than others.

The best superintendents can consistently perform, while others simply crash and burn. In the end, after all, the human factor influences success or failure in managing golf courses—not the living plant, technology, governmental regulation or environment.

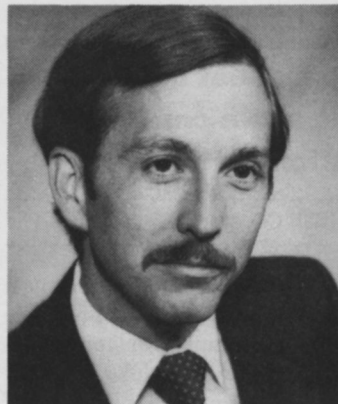
Competition is what separates mediocrity from those who attain near-perfect playing conditions on golf courses. We can concede that available capital, environmental conditions, volume of play, *ad infinitum*, are all factors that influence how well our course managers can produce the playing

fields of golf. But what makes the best "The Best?"

Ask Bill Spence or Steve Cadenelli (quoted in the original column), why some superintendents can consistently achieve near perfect playing conditions while—under the same types of conditions—others fail miserably. Bill and Steve will have to respond that the best superintendents overcome all factors because they are aggressively competitive.

The successful Best pursue perfection, undaunted by the standard complaints about occasional blemishes or failures they constantly hear from golfers. They doggedly have pursued their careers, preparing themselves with solid education, training and more training—just as any champion. (This is the foundation of the GCSAA.) They keep a positive attitude, are confident and persistent. They do not constantly look for excuses. They keep a "can-do" outlook.

The best superintendents set very high standards for themselves and demand the same from those around them. They know full well that they can't attain perfection, but they still set "the best" as their standard and they are satisfied by nothing less.



James Prusa: The "Best" supers want it perfect.

Let's stop searching for ways to lower our standards. Instead let's recommit ourselves to demanding standards. Let's avoid setting our standards low enough to assure our failure. Rather than complaining about the expectations of our customers, let's remember the saying:

"Be thankful if your job is a little harder than you like. A razor can't be sharpened on a piece of velvet."

—The author wrote this as a response to the editor's column in the May issue titled "Does the public expect too much from its golf courses?"

## Landscaping with sneezeless plants

■ About one out of every five persons suffers from allergies, many of which are plant-related.

The American Lung Association of California has published a brochure "Sneezeless Landscaping," which lists the plants that are least likely to cause allergies.

Since the plants were chosen using data counts of airborne pollens, clinical observations and allergy skin testing, the plant list below can be an excellent reference for you to communicate with your allergy-prone clients:

### Trees

Chinese tallow tree (*Sapium sebiferum*)  
tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)  
silk tree (*Albezia julibrissin*)  
strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*)  
common catalpa (*Catalpa bignonioides*)  
Western catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*)  
pine (*Pinus spp.*)  
pear (*Pyrus spp.*)  
podocarpus (*Podocarpus spp.*)

dogwood (*Cornus spp.*)  
fir (*Abies spp.*)  
palms (*Palmae spp.*)  
Coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*)  
fig (*Ficus spp.*)  
jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*)  
plum (*Prunus spp.*)  
crepe myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*)  
silk oak (*Grevillia robusta*)  
coral tree (*Erythrina spp.*)  
orchid tree (*Bauhinia spp.*)  
red bud (*Cercis spp.*)  
maidenhair tree (*Ginkgo biloba*)  
magnolia (*Magnolia spp.*)  
floss silk tree (*Chlorisia insignis, C. speciosa*)

### Shrubs

azalea (*Rhododendron spp.*)  
bougainvillea (*Bougainvillea spp.*)  
camellia (*Camellia spp.*)  
heavenly bamboo (*Nandina domestica*)  
oleander (*Neurium oleander*)  
yucca (*Yucca spp.*)  
firethorn (*Pycnantha spp.*)

viburnum (*Viburnum spp.*)  
grevillea (*Grevillea spp.*)  
pittosporum (*Pittosporum spp.*)  
hibiscus (*Hibiscus spp.*)  
boxwood (*Buxus spp.*)  
verbena (*Verbena spp.*)  
solanum (*Solanum spp.*)  
**Groundcovers**  
cinquefoil (*Potentilla spp.*)  
tradescantia (*Tradescantia spp.*)  
sedum (*Sedum spp.*)  
dichondra (*Dichondra micrantha*)  
bunchgrasses: rey, blue, fescue, etc. (*Sagina subulata*)  
hippocrepis (*Hippocrepis comosa*)  
mazu (*Mazu reptans*)  
**Ornamental flowers**  
poppy (*Papaver spp.*)  
cymbidium (*Cymbidium spp.*)  
begonia (*Begonia spp.*)  
pansy orchid (*Miltonia*)  
bulbs (*Tulip, Ranunculus, Iris*)  
daffodil (*Narcissus spp.*)