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flats of annuals in the course greenhouses and purchases another 60 flats. Perennials are used extensively in the course's 40-plus gardens. Indeed, Phipps maintains enormous gardens, each with its own style and motif with dozens of kinds of flowers, flowering trees and roses. She is proud of the 100 roses on the course and broad spectrum of relatively unusual flowers

they cultivate from seed.

Phipps jokes, "Golf is free at Mount Si. Here people pay for the botanical gardens."

Her newest and largest garden parallels the 18th tee. At a whopping 130 feet by 20 feet, this garden includes everything from Asian pear trees, peach and apple trees to poppies and the popular and somewhat unusual feathery, purple astilbe.

One of the reasons Phipps can cultivate

such enormous and varied gardens is that the course rests at an elevation of 400 feet. Despite its proximity to the volatile, mighty Cascades the weather is mild and inviting in the valley most of the year.

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## Turf stress a factor with 9-hole courses

**When to expand**—For courses of 2,500 to 3,000 yards and a Standard

**To handle double play, use two sets of tees for each hole, and find a way to vary traffic patterns.**

■ On the face of it, managing a nine-hole golf course should be no more difficult than looking after 18. Yet, some factors related to golfer traffic and maintenance make 9-hole management more challenging.

The decision to develop a site for 9 holes, as opposed to 18, usually relates either to a lack of space or finance. Generally, these basic constraints follow through to produce management problems for the shorter course.

Excellent 9-hole courses are located throughout the country, but many golfers consider them the "poor relation" to 18-hole facilities. This perception is grossly unfair, as some have layouts that are as good as, if not superior to, the quality of an 18-hole layout.

If a 9-hole golf course is built on land too small for 18, there may be more room to design a superior course in terms of its playing qualities, assuming that the architect fully appreciates and capitalizes on the opportunity. Many 18-hole courses are ruined because two or three holes have been squeezed into the available area.

It's more difficult to attract visitors to a 9-hole course due to the perception that a standard 18-hole course is better. The supposed tedium of playing the same hole twice in a round may be another reason.

This can be overcome to a degree by having two sets of tees per hole, located well away from each other. This presents a totally different tee shot to the fairway on a par 4 or par 5 hole, or green shot on a par 3.

Scratch Score as low as 60, the option to go to an 18-hole format should be resisted, if there is only the room to double the existing yardage. It may make more sense to design a quality, 9-hole layout with a better balance of par 3, 4 and 5 holes.



Some superb 9-hole layouts have a special character of their own which would be impossible to repeat through a full 18.

**Turf stress concerns**—A round of golf on a 9-hole course still adds up to 18, and this results in double the turf traffic.

If room was initially a constraint, it is unlikely that much thought was given to designing large greens, adequate tees and wide, diverse traffic routes.

Nine-hole courses with separate tees and varied landing and approach areas will have less wear damage. A tighter layout also provides less opportunities to divert winter play.

The question of access around the course has implications for equipment as well as golfers.

If the layout takes up most of the available room, then maintenance vehicles may encroach more onto the playing areas of the 9-hole course. Less room through the site may necessitate having to mow everything, an added maintenance burden many 18-hole courses avoid by promoting banderoughs and conservation areas.

**Morning glut**—It won't take long for a 9-hole course to become choked with golfers first thing in the morning, and there will be minimum amounts of time for greens mowing and other important morning maintenance.

Maintenance for 9 holes is not half that of the 18-hole course due to down time—traveling around the course, maneuvering around small greens and small tees takes up a major portion of management hours.

**Machinery costs**—Essentially the same machinery range is required to tend a 9-hole golf course. A triplex mower is needed for the greens, regardless of number. At first glance, it may be thought that a walk-behind greens mower is more feasible on a 9-hole course. However, the lack of time may mandate using a riding triplex.

Half the topdressing, fertilizer and fungicide can make for a tidy savings, although the difference can be eaten up by increased repair costs.

Fertilizer and pesticide bills may not show lower costs, due to the demands of play, which require a greater input to stimulate growth.

Equivalent costs with reduced income will not make the club's accountant a happy man and the budget will be strained by major outlays, such as irrigation projects, or larger equipment purchases.

—Source: "Northern Ohio Turf"