

# Tree care protects your budget dollars

**Lose a key tree, and it's money down the drain. Monitor tree health at regular intervals.**

■ Trees do more than add to golf course scenery. They're also used to direct the line of play, and can certainly create a challenge for any golfer.

Losing key trees, or a golf course "signature" tree, can damage the integrity of the course design. Remove a strategically placed tree and the par of the hole is then affected.

And finally, there are replacement costs.

Marianne Waindle, a horticulturist with Davey Tree Co. of Kent, Ohio, advises that "a little extra effort today can help eliminate future hassles."

And that means frequent tree health checks, which can range from a simple stroll around the course while recording data on tree condition to a detailed computerized tree health inventory. Tree health inventories help identify the threats to crucial trees. And the more information that is collected about each tree, the better you'll be able to budget maintenance costs.

**Group by variety**—Certain pests usually infest certain species of trees.

"If a lot of key trees are American elms, then you should monitor for Dutch elm

disease," says Dr. Douglas Caldwell, a Davey entomologist.

"If you have a monoculture of a certain tree species, you can budget for new plantings to incorporate other species that will thrive in your region."

Learn which pests have been—or are expected to be—problems in your part of the country. You can find out from your state extension service, local chapters of professional tree care organizations, tree care consultants, and agricultural colleges and universities. With a quick trip to your local library, you can find tree care manuals which contain valuable information.

**Count the costs of replacing a signature tree:**

- 1) The money you spent for it originally, or the intangible sentimental value.
- 2) The price of the replacement.
- 3) The tree spade rental.
- 4) Labor costs.
- 5) Repair of possible turf damage from the heavy equipment.
- 6) Interrupted play.
- 7) Time away from other course projects.
- 8) Disappointed golfers who loved 'that old hickory,' and wonder 'what happened.'



**What next?**—Take care of those trees!

"A healthy tree is better able to tolerate or fend off attackers than an unhealthy one," says Caldwell. "Regular cultural practices, such as fertilization and mulching, help keep trees in good condition."

Inventory data can be used to prioritize maintenance needs, such as pruning, fertilization, mulching and watering. You can also use inventory information to implement a plan of systematic tree maintenance. Once your plan is in place, you may not only notice a decrease in pest problems, but an overall improvement in appearance.

## Correction

■ The April issue of *Landscape Management* ran the graph at the left comparing the growth of private and public golf courses in 1990-1994 on page 6G.

The legend, however, was from an accompanying graph which depicted total rounds played, and confused the whole point of the statistics.

The graph at left shows the chart with the correct legend. The total number of public and private golf course openings from 1990-1994 are the same totals as were listed in the April issue.

*LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT* regrets any inconvenience this may have caused.

—The editors

