

## Landscape Work on Golf Courses

This number of the Bulletin is devoted to a consideration of the landscape problems on a golf course. In many cases the greenkeeper and the green committee are not charged with the work connected with the trees, shrubbery, and flower gardens of the club. On perhaps the big majority of American golf courses, however, the entire maintenance of grounds is in charge of those whose duties it is to see that the turf is in proper condition. Whether or not the green committee and the greenkeeper are charged with more than the turf work, they can not fail to appreciate the importance of landscaping the modern golf course if a beautiful course is to be developed. Thanks to the general appreciation of the importance of landscape work, the barren, pasture-like appearance of golf courses is largely giving way to more beautiful and pleasing areas in which one may enjoy his game of golf and some leisure time when the game is over. There are some golfers who maintain that a golf course is no place for trees and shrubs. Such golfers form a very small minority. Although most of the players realize that the golf course is not a place for the indiscriminate placing of large plants, they realize that there is ample space outside of the line of play for some adornment with foliage and flowers. In this number of the Bulletin special emphasis is given to the planting of areas off of the golf course proper, around the club house or shop, and along the driveway from which visitors usually get their first impression of the esthetic value of the course. In another number it is planned to give suggestions for planting more generally around the golf course, where there is available space that can be used to advantage for such work.

The bleak approaches and the destitute surroundings of the club houses in many of our prosperous golf clubs are deplorable. In many cases they are excusable on the basis of financial stringency, but too often they can only be explained as due to an unpardonable lack of oversight on the part of those who have apparently set out to destroy every living thing in their way to construct a golf course. Occasionally one finds a course being built on a natural woody area over which a group of wood choppers have worked indiscriminately in such a way as to give the impression that the area was being cleared for large farming operations rather than the construction of a huge playground with natural country surroundings. Where a course has been the victim of such an unguided construction gang, the only hope of restoring a picturesque setting is to establish a definite policy of landscaping. Nature makes her own beautiful plantings of trees and flowers, but her program is a slow one unless some aid is given by man, who has been responsible for the original desecration. Frequently it is necessary to build golf courses where timber has been cut years ago, where there is little chance to take advantage of existing natural surroundings. Even with the most careful attention given to the natural assets it is usually found that in the construction of the club house and the various parts of the course a certain amount of destruction is unavoidable. In order to make any new development fit in with the natural surroundings it is usually necessary to make some planting, particularly around the club house or other buildings on the course property, and also the driveway. In this number we present suggestions in landscape work from authorities connected with government institutions of the United States and

Canada. In both of these discussions attention is called to the value of landscape planting around the club house and along driveways. Both of these contributors have given only general suggestions to serve as guides for those who are interested in the subject. Further valuable detailed advice may be obtained by writing either of these contributors. Another contributor tells of the experience of the Longue Vue Club in beautifying the surroundings of its new club house. The driveway and grounds around the club house at Longue Vue form one of the outstanding demonstrations of landscaping accomplishments about American golf clubs. It is even more striking when one appreciates the short period of time in which the results have been achieved. As pointed out by Mr. MacCloskey, the work at Longue Vue has been in the hands of a separate committee, and supported by special donations from the club members. It is interesting to note that this committee employed a professional landscape architect to make the plans for this work. A great many clubs have members who are enthusiastic friends of plant and animal life who will gladly serve on a special landscape committee and do a great deal of unselfish work toward promoting plans for the beautification of and added interest in the club property. However, it must be remembered that a landscape committee is not spending club money doing this work for the present but rather for the effects that will be in evidence in the course of several years; therefore it is well to seek the very best advice before making any final decisions on the plans. A few trees badly placed may cost very little at the outset and may not be particularly objectionable; however, as the years go by and the trees become larger they may become decidedly objectionable or may entirely spoil the natural effect of the whole planting. After trees have grown for a number of years they are expensive to move, and it is the usual experience that, if some committee has struggled to get trees started on the course, a certain amount of sentiment soon becomes attached to them, and it is extremely difficult to have them removed in later years without creating a certain amount of ill feeling between groups of members within the club. Landscaping problems should be well thought out before any work is started. On the other hand, work should be started as soon as possible in order that the trees and shrubs may have a chance to commence growth without delay. It is not well to try to economize too closely on plans, but rather to economize in the purchase of material in a manner such as pointed out by Mr. MacCloskey. Every nurseryman has a certain amount of planting material that he finds difficult to dispose of for planting about homes, where specimens have individual value. In the massed plantings that can be used on golf courses an opportunity is presented to use some poorly shaped specimens which the nurseryman can well afford to sell in quantities at bargain prices. A golf club usually has some land which it can profitably use as a nursery for trees and shrubs. A small nursery of this type is often as valuable an asset to a golf club as is a turf nursery. Mr. Tregillus, in his article in this number of the Bulletin, has brought out the possibility of moving large trees from woods on the course and also the feasibility of developing a nursery for small planting stock which will be available for replacement in a surprisingly short period of time.