

Beautification of Golf Courses

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The golf course should be an object of great beauty and of natural interest. Unfortunately, this is not always the case. In constructing a golf course, often the natural beauty by way of trees, evergreens, pleasing woodlands, open fields, and running streams has to be interfered with and in many instances completely destroyed to bring about a modern golf course. If this should be the case, to relieve the monotony some planting should be done immediately, even before opening the course for play. A golf club, like a residence owner, is under obligation morally to make, or to help make or retain, a beautiful countryside. With attractive grounds and pleasing surroundings the game is bound to be more enjoyable, as the players will receive inspiration if not from the game at least from the environment (it is hoped both). To see a stretch of country called a golf course bare and lacking in tree growth and planting material of any kind is a monotonous and an unattractive picture even if well carpeted with grass. In fact, the sight of such a course to the average observer brings about criticism at once. It must be admitted that it is not always easy to plant trees and otherwise improve the landscape. There is a great deal of expense and labor involved—but the investment is worth while.



Crazy paving and carpet bedding make an attractive entrance approach to a club house

In the first place, a golf course should have a pleasing entrance and approach to the club house, and if at all possible the approach outside the golf course entrance should also be attractive and pleasing. It is unfortunate to find a beautiful golf course with an un-

sightly and unattractive street or roadside entrance. The approach to the club house should always be full of interest and delight; if possible, the driveway should be planted on both sides, or at least one, with shrubs, possibly evergreens, and a shade tree or so. If there is a boundary, a perennial border may be arranged against such with a suitable background of shrubs and evergreens. The club house setting in most cases is paramount. If the house is of rich architectural design, planting should be subordinate, absolutely; but if somewhat ordinary in appearance and style, planting should be done to relieve the bareness of the structure and accentuate such features as main doorways, and, if such exist, pleasing stone work or even frame work.



Ornamental shrubs do much to break the monotony of massive plain walls and windows. *Euonymus vegetus*, shown in this illustration, is an evergreen semi-climber and serves well for this purpose

If the club house is of imposing architecture, evergreens choice in color and form should play a part in the planting scheme. But if architectural features of marked outline are lacking, shrubbery with more ordinary evergreens and possibly perennials and annuals can be set around the walls of the building. Foundations, if built of costly stone and in pleasing design, should not be shut in or hidden. Planting around such a structure should act as a relief and should feature pleasing entrances, windows, corners, and the like.

In the northeastern sections, evergreens or conifers like the pyramid cedar (*Thuja pyramidalis*), upright junipers, as *Juniperus communis* variety *suecica*, also *Juniperus virginiana* and variety *glauca*, are among the best. Here and there the oriental cedar (*Thuja ibota*) where it succeeds, should be utilized; it is a beautiful conifer and succeeds well in such sections as the southern parts of Ontario. The dwarf-growing types can be represented by the rounded or globe cedars, Savin's juniper, and particularly *Juniperus pfitzeriana*; while *Juniperus prostrata* and *Juniperus tamariscifolia* are worth consid-

ering. One spreading upright juniper which may be featured is *Juniperus cannarti*. One of the most attractive and hardy dwarf evergreens is Japanese yew (*Taxus cuspidata*).

In shrubs for foundation planting, not only should attractive blossoms, foliage, and habit be considered, but odor. In fact, perfume should always be considered around a club house as well as on home grounds. This means that the mock orange, or Philadelphus, should be planted, particularly the variety *virginale*; this is an outstanding shrub with beautiful, large, sweetly scented double blossoms. The common mock orange (*Philadelphus coronarius*) is also most pleasing. In fact, any mock orange may be considered, except tall-growing types like *grandiflora*, unless a tall, bare wall is to be covered. Then lilacs, too, may be planted, but with care. These are usually better out in the open. The Spiraea family should have a prominent place, as *Spiraea Van Houttei* and *Spiraea arguta*, while *Spiraea thunbergi* in more favored spots may be considered. The foliage of this spirea is very attractive. A comparatively new spirea with elder-like blossoms should have a place, known as *Spiraea veitchii*. The low-growing magenta-colored variety Anthony Waterer may be planted against white or grey walls or a background of green. There are numerous shrubs to choose from. Some berried forms should have a place even around the foundation of the building. This brings in the honeysuckle or Lonicera group, and should include *Lonicera tatarica* and *Lonicera morrowi* at least.

For climbers in the colder sections, the so-called *Ampelopsis engelmannii* should be given the preference, while in milder parts the more superior self-clinging varieties of *Ampelopsis veitchii* or Japanese ivy come in. At times the two species are planted together. Care must be taken not to allow climbers absolutely to cover beautiful walls and windows. Planting around a building is to bring about a relationship between the structure and the surrounding land and objects.

At times perennials may be set among shrubbery adjoining the building. These would include interesting forms, as peonies, irises, delphiniums, and hollyhocks, not forgetting a few biennials, like *Coreopsis grandiflora*, Canterbury bells, and gaillardias. Clumps of pansies and violets, also here and there sweet-smelling annuals, may be given a chance, particularly mignonette. For evening scent the sweet-smelling tobacco plant *Nicotiana affinis* is a great attribute. The home-like and ever pleasing forget-me-nots, sweet scented or otherwise, should be planted too. Care must be taken not to overcrowd. In fact, as already said, with buildings of marked architectural design very little planting of evergreens and shrubs should be done adjoining the building itself; here the entrances should receive chief attention.

Flower beds are often arranged alongside a driveway and in the lawn space adjoining the building. Flower beds are usually best within an enclosure, especially if the building is of marked design. Here flower beds no doubt have a place, but should be arranged in a suitable effective design. The enclosure may be square, circular, or rectangular. If square or circular the chief feature should be a central object, whether it be statuary or plants, perhaps evergreens; or if a tropical effect in summer is wanted, such plants as palms or dracaenas may be introduced. However, should the space be rectangular or longitudinal, then the opposite boundaries should possess accents of paramount interest and the center should be open. This center may



Some fine specimens of evergreens naturally placed beautify the club grounds at all seasons

be of grass, water, paving stone, or the like. The features at opposite sides may be archways, seats, statuary, or even plant growth of comparatively large dimensions. Running parallel with the long sides may be seats, plant growth, statuary, or flower beds. The first-named system is known as the radial design and the latter as the bilateral. A formal garden should always have a design that is easily understood and have spirit or atmosphere. The so-called Old English type of sunken wall garden would be first class if in the right setting. However, with the average club house the lawn space is better open, and planting done around the buildings and at the boundaries, with thoughts of shade and protection, not forgetting seats scattered in suitable places.

The path or walk approaches to the building may be of cement, gravel or paving stone. Stepping stones or crazy paths, except for private entrances, are rather out of the question, because of the usual traffic in and out of the club house. They are tiptop for an old-fashioned garden.

As far as flower beds are concerned, popular annuals, so-called, are the best, and bulbs for the spring usually are worth while, if the club cares to invest in them. On the course itself trees and evergreens play an important part. At the tees there is a chance for such planting. Care must be taken not to plant where the game may be interfered with unnecessarily, except in the case of hazards.

On the golf course no doubt native deciduous trees as well as native conifers play an important part. On moist soils the elm and silver maple may be given a chance, and on drier soils the hard or sugar maple, the tulip (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), the oak, and the coffee tree. Among the evergreens which may be introduced are blue spruce (*Picea pungens*), also Koster's blue spruce, silver fir (*Abies concolor*), hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga douglasi*), and white spruce (*Picea canadensis*), not forgetting the many pines and the arbor vitae. All have a place either in single specimens or in clumps.

Where there is a chance the so-called wild flowers should be encouraged. There are hosts of them. After all, native flowers are par excellence. Even the most appealing have not always been received kindly at home but are valued highly in European gardens.

Wherever possible, in connection with the lawn or enclosed space near the club house, archways may be instituted, even pergolas if there is space for such. These may be covered with the popular climbing and rambler roses, such as American pillar, Paul's scarlet, Dorothy Perkins, Dr. E. M. Mills, and a host of others. Among the best climbers for archways where fall effect is desired would be the common bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*). When in berry this is a most attractive climber. *Clematis jackmanii* and other varieties are admirable for archway use.

Shrubs in clumps on the grounds, or even on the course, should include, where effect is wanted, berried forms of *Euonymus americanus*, *Euonymus europaeus*, and other varieties of *Euonymus*. This family of plants is delightful in the fall. Shrub roses may be considered for shrubbery borders and may include the free-flowering Hugonis, the Scotch rose *spinosissima*, the many varieties of the Japanese form, especially the new hybrids, and red and pink Grootendorst. So one may go on! This subject is inexhaustible.

It may be wise at times to seek the assistance of a landscape architect to advise and prepare the plans and to superintend the work. Nursery firms can do this work, but more often the greenkeeper has to take hold. In some instances it is worth while to employ the services of a trained gardener to assist on a golf course. Visualization, a knowledge of design, and familiarity with planting material are all necessary. Every golf club is anxious to have a home-like setting with an atmosphere of welcome for its club house as well as an attractive course, not forgetting the value of the course from the playing standpoint. Thought and money spent for the preservation or the creation of landscape and scenic beauty on the golf course are always worth while.