

News Notes for Summer 1989



Gloriosa Daisy



Jim Skorulski

Jim Skorulski Joins Green Section Staff as Northeastern Region Agronomist

The Green Section is pleased to announce the appointment of James E. Skorulski to its staff. A native of New Hartford, New York, Jim earned a bachelor of science degree from Syracuse University's College of Environmental Science and Forestry, specializing in pest management. Following graduation he joined the staff at the Yahnandasis

Country Club, near Utica, New York, where he worked as supervising arborist. He instituted a major tree planting program, carrying out tree and turf pest management programs, and other duties.

Jim left Yahnandasis in 1987 to pursue graduate studies in turfgrass management at Cornell University, where he recently earned a master of professional studies degree. His thesis work concerned the development of integrated pest management (IPM) strategies for golf courses.

Jim joined the Green Section staff in April, and will assist Jim Snow, Northeastern Region Director, and Jim Connolly with visits to Turf Advisory Service clubs in New Jersey, New York, and New England.

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ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

Aerial Hazards

by **PATRICK M. O'BRIEN**

Director, Southeastern Region, Green Section

TREES ARE important features on many golf courses. The tree-lined fairways that follow the natural terrain of these courses provide beauty, challenge, and tranquility for the golfer. In general, golfers prefer a course with lots of trees, but most of them do not realize the deleterious effects trees have on nearby turf areas. More serious consideration toward tree placement and dealing with existing trees is essential.

The greatest error in tree placement is planting too many trees around greens and tees. Trees are desirable for framing a putting green or for producing the chute effect at a tee, but they shouldn't be allowed to cause major turf problems. Adequate sunlight and air circu-

lation are necessary for proper turf growth, and when these conditions are not available, the turf can become thin and weak. Both bermudagrass and bentgrass greens are more susceptible to disease and more expensive to maintain in these tree-pocketed sites.

In addition, tree branches, debris, and roots can significantly affect the golfer's game and add to the cost of maintaining a golf course. It is frustrating to discover your golf ball in an unplayable situation under tree branches just a few feet from the edge of a fairway. Shrubs used as yardage markers can cause the same problem. Trees that produce litter and surface roots are best planted well away from the playing areas of the course.

Club officials are often reluctant to remove a tree that interferes with maintenance of an important turf area. The golfer who complains about the poor quality turf on a green is often the same one who will put his body between the chain saw and the tree. A choice must be made, and in all but the most unusual circumstances it should be made in favor of the turf.

Trees are great, but let's use some common sense about them on the golf course. Trees that interfere with the health and vigor of the turf in important playing areas should be thinned, pruned, moved, or removed. When new trees are planted, give careful consideration to how they will affect nearby turf in the decades ahead.