

Excerpts from the USGA Green Section Turf Advisory Service Reports

June 26, 2007

Tree Management

Solid progress has been made with selective tree removal around the course. Most recently removal behind the twelfth green has improved the grass-growing microenvironment. However, additional underbrush and tree removal is needed left (east) of the twelfth green to complement what has already been achieved.

The trees behind the fifteenth green should also be removed to maximize morning sunlight penetration. The removal will also improve airflow across the turf and the combination will strengthen turf health/dependability.

Beyond the need to remove trees at twelve and fifteen, any putting surface that is shaded in the morning would benefit from selective tree removal. Past morning sunlight and airflow, do not allow trees to overhang greens, tees and/or fairways. Again excellent strides have been made – keep pressing forward.

August 17, 2005

Tree Management

Utilize the four principles discussed in the past to guide ongoing selective tree removal. As a review the principles include the following.

- **Do not allow trees to block morning sunlight penetration and/or prevailing air movement across greens, tees and/or fairways.**
- **Do not allow trees to overhang greens, tees and/or fairways.**
- **Do not allow two or more trees to grow into each other.**
- **Do not allow the temporary (trees) to compromise/camouflage the permanent (mounding, bunkers and overall terrain features).**

A few sites reviewed during our tour that should be on a comprehensive list of needed selective tree removal include the following.

- The large oak tree blocking sunlight from the first tee and overhanging the ninth green is compromising turf quality. However, due to safety concerns, rather than complete removal, thin limb density and in particular target the enhancement of morning sunlight on the first tee.
- Thin the stand of trees behind the first green to improve airflow across the turf.
- Additional tree thinning is needed east and southeast of the twelfth and thirteenth greens to improve morning sunlight penetration. The third green would also be strengthened by improving morning sunlight penetration.
- Those trees on the hillside east and southeast of the new practice tee should be removed to improve morning sunlight penetration.

Beyond the above examples, list all trees that impact one or more of the above principles. Those trees compromising putting surface microenvironments should top the list for removal. Budget adequately for needed selective tree removal and keep pressing forward. In the final analysis, trees are optional to the game – grass is not.