**Book Reviews**


*Pirone’s Tree Maintenance* was a classic work, originally published in 1941 and for many years a definitive reference in arboriculture. P.P. Pirone authored the first five editions and coauthored the sixth. Now in this latest seventh edition, the name remains the same, but Pirone’s son, D. Thomas Pirone, and John Hartman both professors of plant pathology at the University of Kentucky, are joined by Forest Pathologist Mary Ann Sall as its new authors.

The new edition is substantively changed from earlier editions with a heavy emphasis in over half the book on recognizing and treating insect and disease pests.

The book is organized in three large sections: General Maintenance Practices, Diagnosis and Management of Tree Problems and, Abnormalities of Specific Trees.

The first section covers everything from the value of trees, their structure and function, selection, transplanting, soil issues, fertilizing, pruning and tree preservation. These issues are treated in a fairly general way with very few references to support statements made. Even when specific research is mentioned, few references are given to back up the statement. Tree selection is an area in which there is much more detailed information than is included in this text. For the practitioner with limited experience, this text introduces many important issues but does not go into depth. Likewise, the sections on transplanting and tree preservation go through these sections in a cursory way with the section on tree hazard evaluation, arguably one of the most important jobs for the arborist, needing a more in-depth treatment. Major references in this area are given at the end of the chapter.

Where this book excels however is in the sections on diagnosing tree problems, and describing specific insects and diseases that affect individual genera. This section is especially accessible to novices in the area who might be intimidated by a more detailed treatment.

The diagnosis sections may be the most immediately useful to the tree manager faced with an ailing plant. Similarly, the chapter Coping with Tree Pests and Diseases covers all methods of managing pests from plant health care and IPM to the use of biological controls and cultural practices to chemical means. The authors emphasize the need for clear management objectives before launching into a pest management program. This book gives the practitioner and teacher a new tool to use in the field and classroom. When the first edition came out, it was the classic text in the field of tree management. However, there are other texts now that cover some issues in more depth. I recommend this book as a sound introduction to the field with a very good section on managing tree pests.

**Nina Bassuk**
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This book presents some basic concepts and theories regarding soil water relations and drainage in golf course greens, athletic fields, and horticultural plantings. In moderate detail, it adds to the practical reference of water movement in soils used for recreational purposes. The book compliments Edward Pirone’s book, *A Guided Tour of Golf Course Irrigation System Design and Drainage*, published in 1997 by Oxford Press. As with Pirone’s book, the focus of this book pertains primarily to golf course putting greens and athletic fields. Shrub beds and plantings are infrequently mentioned, and therefore this book applies more to the turfgrass manager than to the landscape horticulturist.

In the first and third chapters, some basic soil science, such as particle size distribution, pore space relationships, and bulk density are reviewed. Chapters 2, 4, 5, and 6 discuss soil-water relationships in moderate detail with a degree of clarity that the practitioner can understand. From an applied approach, chapters 7 through 11 cover drainage theory and calculations. The final chapter covers the authors’ methods of measuring hydraulic conductivity. Also, an index details the United States Golf Association’s (USGA) recommendations for a method of putting green construction and is a useful reference.

The book has many illustrations with the preponderance being line drawings. The figures are neatly presented, easy to read and interpret, and are well used to convey related concepts and ideas. Due to the nature of the material, it is necessary to use graphs, tables, and equations. Graphs, all being line graphs, are well presented and compliment the text. Tables also are clear and appropriately used to reinforce the subject matter. Compared to a soil physics text, this book contains very few equations, none of which require math skills beyond basic algebra. However, the equations are adequately used and explained. The authors also use presented equations in examples with step-by-step solutions such that the reader can easily follow and apply the equations in practice.

The authors use practical examples, often from observed experiences, to emphasize concepts. Many of these examples revolve around preparation of athletic fieldstos be used for the 2000 Olympics in...
Sydney, Australia. The general practitioner can relate to these examples and learn from the successes and mistakes of others. Also, M. Cluynre and J. Jakobsen use rules of thumb type of examples to provide useful guidelines. This too reinforces presented concepts and ideas.

As admitted by the authors, this book is intended to be a lay person’s soil physics text. This book should not be confused or substituted for a soil physics text, it lacks the depth and full spectrum of the subject. The authors admit to loosely using terminology that they know to be of complex states in order to preserve the broad parameters of their audience.

This book is written with the practitioner in mind. Often for the sake of simplicity, very complex theories are over simplified, leaving the academic unfulfilled. Due to its simplicity, this book would not be adequate for upper level soils courses. However, the practical examples and basic calculations can be used to introduce concepts that allow an instructor a starting point for more in depth exploration. A basic soils course and/or extensive experience and background reading are suggested requirements before fully benefiting from this book.

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Nearly 100 turfgrass scientists and practitioners from the U.S. and abroad were consulted by authors Duncan and Carrow to produce this book. A primary objective was to create an operational manual for site-specific management situations involving seashore paspalum.

The authors provide a sound linkage between natural history of seashore paspalum, its evolution in coastal ecosystems of the tropics and subtopics (including parts of eastern North America), and its emergence as the most salt tolerant warm-season turfgrass in use today. The species is discussed in reference to its multiple stress tolerance, including tolerance to salinity (seawater, wastewater, and effluent, gray, and brackish irrigation waters), drought, waterlogging, low light, acidity, and alkalinity. The coverage on abiotic stress, particularly the tailoring approach to site-specific management for multiple stress situations, is a novel aspect of the book. Coverage on physiological and biochemical phenomena is light, and this is appropriate for the management-related focus of the book.

The book’s 19 chapters are reasonably specific to seashore paspalum, with notable and well-placed references to other species. The chapters are divided among four major sections: background and description of seashore paspalum, environmental stress tolerance, management practices, and principles for using alternative water resources. The latter section includes plantings on environmentally-sensitive sites (e.g., wetlands), and metal hyperaccumulation tendencies of the species. A chapter on genetics includes modern plant genomic techniques for seashore paspalum.

The book is well organized and the index is user-friendly. References support each chapter and are sectioned at the end of each chapter. The chapters on taxonomy, history, edaphic and biotic stress resistance, and bioremediation/reclamation are particularly well-cited. The authors consider the stress resistance of seashore paspalum, its minimal need for pesticides, and lower nitrogen requirements than other warm-season turfgrasses, and appropriately suggest that seashore paspalum will play an important role in turf systems of the 21st century. For good measure (in case we are not keeping up with the daily news), the authors kindly remind us that the turf industry, as with all areas of horticulture, is becoming increasingly regulated in its use of fresh water supplies and agrochemicals. Thus, as they point out, seashore paspalum is a logical turfgrass selection for the future, and this makes Seashore Paspalum a good reference for environmental horticulturists.

Seashore Paspalum would make a good supplement as a library reserve reading text for an upper or lower division course in turfgrass management or environmental horticulture, but probably not as a sole text for such courses because of its species specificity. However, species specificity is the very nature of the book and by every means should be considered as a positive aspect. There is a separate chapter on golf course case studies involving seashore paspalum. Because of the shortness of the case study chapter, an instructor-reader could make a case for its expansion, especially in view of the increasing importance of decision case education. This deficiency should be viewed in a positive light in that the book could have used a little more of a good thing here. Instructors could use creativity by looking at the book’s case study examples and then building similar cases relevant to their own situations, maybe on other turfgrass species.

As a comprehensive reference to seashore paspalum, the book would undoubtedly serve well all turfgrass scientists and practitioners. It would also provide a good reference to those working in the area of plants and the environment, especially in reclamation and remediation programs.

Seashore Paspalum is a refreshing change from traditional horticultural texts. The cover photo is a soft, breezy landscape of the ocean in the background fronted by an infinitely green, undulating golf course. It would be a pleasant addition to any desktop, but the gentle and more salient message goes to remind both scientists and practitioners alike of the vast but underexploited potential for horticulture to actively solve serious environmental concerns of the present day and years ahead.

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Turf Managers’ Handbook for Golf Course Construction, Renovation and Grow-in is an excellent reference and guide, which addresses questions and issues that face golf course superintendents and managers before, during and after construction. This is the first handbook that discusses both concepts and procedures for proper grow-in management. This book details numerous quality control issues and troubleshooting problems during the critical phase from final construction to grow-in. The author’s rich field experience offers the reader an ‘in the field’,