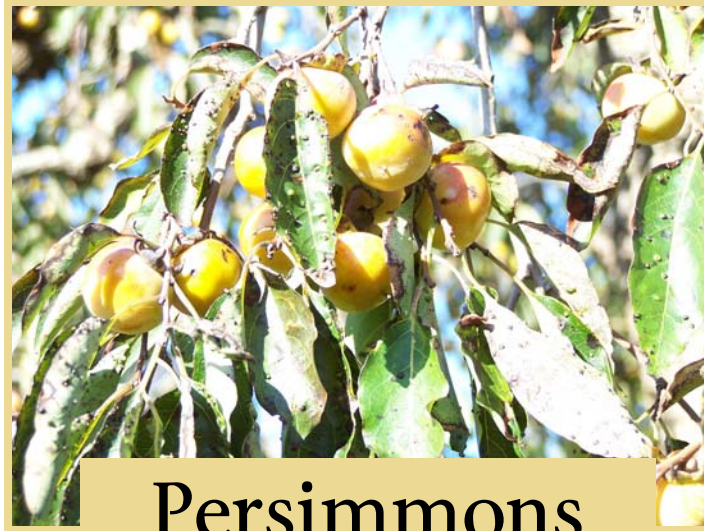


October 2006



KEN'S KORNER

G R E A T E B A Y C O U N T R Y C L U B



Persimmons

At the base of the first fairway, a few yards to the right, proudly stand a small grouping of persimmon trees that represent a long ago, but not yet forgotten, era of golf - an era when golf was more about experiencing nature than technology.

Today the persimmon tree is pretty much left unnoticed, except for those who may appreciate the teas that are made from its leaves, or the gifts of its late season fruit. The fruit, which is very sour when green and developing, ripens in the late fall to a red, sweet and juicy treat. It can be eaten off the tree, or made into pies, jams, and jellies. The fruit is also a favorite of birds and deer too.

But many years ago, the likes of Tom Morris and Willie Park, Jr., and their contemporaries, handcrafted club heads from the wood of the persimmon. The persimmon was chosen for its hardness and durability, and in its day, was considered to be the material of choice for quality clubs.

I can't help to think how fitting it is that these stately trees stand in the roughs of Greate Bay, and to imagine that perhaps it was Willie Park Jr. who conserved them as young saplings when he designed the course. We probably will never know if he did or did not, but we can certainly appreciate that both left a rich history here...

Ken Thompson
Golf Course Superintendent

It's always a Greate day at Greate Bay!