

**NORTH FLORIDA**

# DIVOTS

by:  
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## WHEN IS A GREEN A "10"

Hey! Would you look at that! What color, so smooth, so firm, now that my friends is a true "10". To my knowledge, golf course greens have never been subjected to a scale of 1 to 10 like other subjects or phenomena. Probably, one reason for a nonexistent scale is the subjectivity that is involved in determining what makes a good putting surface.

Putting surfaces are a hot item for discussion in all forms of golf literature. Color, speed and architectural design are a few of the many hotly contested issues at present. A golf course superintendent has a wealth of biological research to substantiate various cultural turf practices that produce good putting surfaces. Turfgrass terminology also enables one to find a "10" by giving one direction in striving for a good putting surface.

Uniformity, smoothness, firmness, resiliency, verdure and color are just a few of the characteristics one may look for in a good putting surface.

Turf cultural practice such as balanced fertilization, irrigation and greens maintenance techniques gives one the means to achieve the characteristics desired in a good putting surface. Even the greens maintenance techniques

are subjective in nature. How often does one verti-cut, top dress, airify, mow and at what height of cut does one mow; what degree does one allow chemicals (herbicides, fungicides, insecticides) to pay in striving for a good putting green surface?

Superintendents throughout the state of Florida have their own ideals and mode of operation in making a good putting surface. Depending on what school of thought they belong to, cultural practices and green characteristics will vary.

How does one know when they have arrived at a "10"? In the final analysis, whether a superintendent be at a public resort or private membership club, the feedback received from your golfers can be the scale of your greens. Putting green characteristics and cultural turf practices can be used to promote the type of surface that is economical and desired by the golfers on ones course. Different clubs will desire different putting green standards. The superintendents must listen to the subjective overtones of his membership and adjust his putting green surfaces accordingly. Clear cut guidelines for what makes a good putting green surface can best be determined by those that play your course. ■

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