

Shades Of Green

■ OPINION

If I ever decide to give up this lucrative *Golfdom* gig, I can always write a dictionary of the *real* meanings of some of the frequently used terms in golf course maintenance. In fact, I've already started compiling a list for that future book.

I thought I'd share these with you so I can build up anticipation for my future endeavor and thereby increase sales. So without further ado, here are some of the definitions that superintendents would like to keep hidden from the public:

AUDUBON INTERNATIONAL: An organization that turns golf courses into Entomological Cooperative Sanctuaries, the perfect habitat for mosquitoes, gnats, deer flies, horse flies, mole crickets and fire ants.

BENTGRASS: Grass with rheumatoid arthritis. With all the of the new A, G and L varieties you'd think they could straighten out BENTgrass. Frankly, it sounds like something you would buy at a scratch-and-dent sale.

CELL PHONES: Tiny communication devices stuck to the faces of insecure and clueless drivers, golfers, diners, movie and churchgoers, and GCSAA seminar attendees.

COMPUTERIZED IRRIGATION: A high-tech way of *not* applying water you can't use thanks to drought conditions and water restrictions.

DROUGHT: (1) Method to identify poorly designed irrigation systems; (2) Mother Nature's sarcastic way of making up for El Niño.

GREEN SPEED: The curse of Eddie Stimpson. Greens have three speeds on any given day (depending on how well the golfer is playing): too slow, too fast and just right.

HUMUS: A polite euphemism for natural fertilizer. In California, it's often confused with hummus. Los Angelinos, *do not* spread humus on a bagel and eat it.

LIGHTNING: Nature's chain saw, although it never takes care of the right trees. Of several thousand trees on the course, lightning will always strike the tree guarding a dogleg — never a tree shading a green.

NINETY-DEGREE RULE: A rule that clearly wasn't designed to apply to *golfers* (said with sarcastic inflection). This is how golfers usu-

Revealing the Real Meanings

BY JOEL JACKSON



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ally interpret the rule: Turn 90 degrees from the cart path and proceed to your ball. Turn 90 degrees again and drive up the wet fairway until you see the ranger, then immediately turn 90 degrees and head for the cart path like a bat out of hell.

PART-TIME HELP: Something you get from students in the summer. If this definition applies to your regular staff, you're in trouble.

POLITICAL SUICIDE: Allowing your irritation with stupid questions to show. Includes such phrases as, "Failure to plan ahead on your part does not constitute an emergency on our part," in response to a question from the greens chairman, club manager or pro shop.

SHOTGUN STARTS: Golf tournaments that often resemble surprise birthday parties — everybody knows about them except you.

SUSPENDED PLAY: A way for superintendents to annoy anxious golfers (at least according to the pro shop).

TOPDRESSING: (1) expensive dirt; (2) washed, screened sand particles used to dull the finely honed cutting edge of mower reels and bedknives; or (3) mechanic's nightmare.

ULTRADWARF BERMUDAGRASS: Grass so short you can't mow it with the mowers you currently have.

WATER RESTRICTIONS: (1) Emergency rules enacted so that homeowners with even-numbered addresses can water during rain storms on Thursdays and Sundays; (2) Roundabout way of bringing British Open course conditions to America.

If anyone else can supply me with other definitions, I'd love to hear them. I'll add them to my ever-growing list.

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