

Up and Down

A look back at the year in statistics and sayings, including results of our recent superintendent survey and the best quotables of the year from some of the industry's most interesting characters

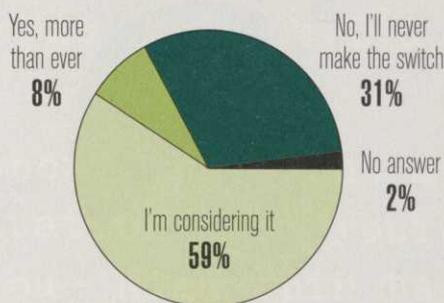


About the Survey

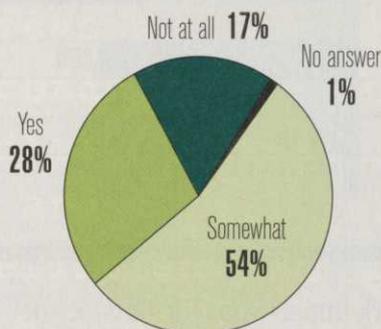
In October Golfdom conducted a major online survey of about 380 superintendents and other golf industry personnel. A vast portion of our findings is reported here. About 56 percent of the superintendents who responded to the survey are from public courses, and about 44 percent are from private courses. More than 40 percent of respondents have worked in the industry for more than 10 years.

“ I love someone who can look at a divot and figure out exactly what the hell a guy’s golf swing did to create it. I think that’s cool.” – **Rick Reilly**, Sports Illustrated columnist, on what he thinks of superintendents.

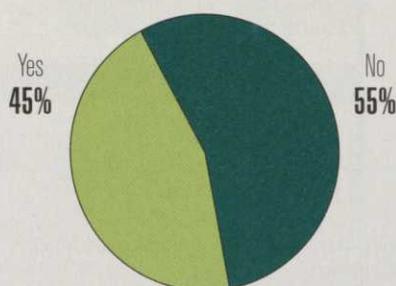
With the sharp increase in gas prices, will you consider using more electric equipment to offset fuel costs?



President Bush recently urged Americans to conserve energy, especially gas. Are you doing your part on the golf course to conserve?



Was your course damaged or hindered by bad weather in 2005?



“ You go further south and *Poa annua* is a weed in our region. You go further north and it’s a desired surface. So we sort of split the middle here with it. If [superintendents] are trying to kill *Poa*, we can figure out how to do that. If they’re trying to manage it, we can figure out how to do that too.”

– **Keith Happ**, senior agronomist for the USGA Green Section’s Mid-Atlantic Region, on the respect and disrespect that superintendents have for *Poa* in his region.

“ I do like disease. If that makes me strange, so be it.”

– **Bruce Clarke**, director of the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science and a turf disease aficionado.

“ That show was just hectic.”

– Irrigation consultant **Dave Davis** on getting around at the sizable Golf Industry Show last February.

“ It looks like somebody who works – and not at golf.”

– **Jon Jennings**, certified superintendent of the Chicago Golf Club, describing what his golf game looks like.



“ Turf equipment gets [treated harder] than any other equipment I’ve seen. And I’ve seen it all. I’ve worked on everything from tanks, hand mowers and 18-wheel tractor-trailers. Turf equipment gets abused the most.”

– **Jay Rehr**, president of Turf Equipment Consulting and well-known golf industry mechanic.

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In this business you will be humbled. I don't care how good you are or how good you think you are, Mother Nature can take it away from you any time.”

– **Jimmy Ellison**, vice president of agronomy and golf course maintenance for Arnold Palmer Golf, on golf course maintenance in the real world.

“Let's face it: We're a chemical company. If nobody stands up for it ... well, we shouldn't be surprised if people say we don't need chemicals anymore.”
 – **Hans Reiner**, BASF executive, on the realities of the business.

“Thanks for the memories, Jack!”
 – A fan yelling to Jack Nicklaus on the second day of the Memorial Tournament at Muirfield Village Golf Club in May. Nicklaus missed the cut in what could have been his last tournament at the Dublin, Ohio, course he designed and built.

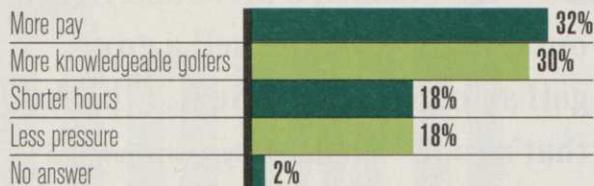
“We don't talk about hurricanes here any more. It's like taboo.”
 – **Rob Kloska**, superintendent of the Jupiter Island Club in Hobe Sound, Fla.

“There's not a whole lot to do around here. But you manage.”
 – **Jerry Bonner**, who interned on the golf course maintenance staff at Pinehurst No. 2 this year, on the nightlife in the quaint town of Pinehurst, which ain't exactly Vegas.

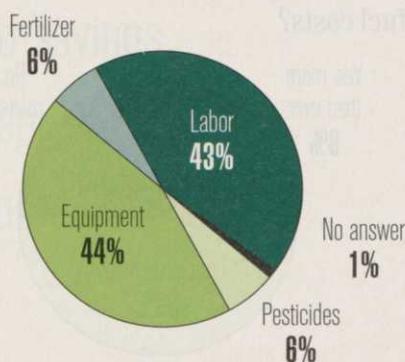
“Reality is reality, and Mother Nature wins all battles. Just like today, I wanted rain but not an inch and a half.”
 – **Paul Galligan**, superintendent of Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City, Mich., on dealing with the weather.

“I can't think of anyone who has put themselves through more misery than I have.”
 – **Shawn Emerson**, director of agronomy of Desert Mountain in Scottsdale, Ariz., who has participated in more than 50 golf course overseedings. ■

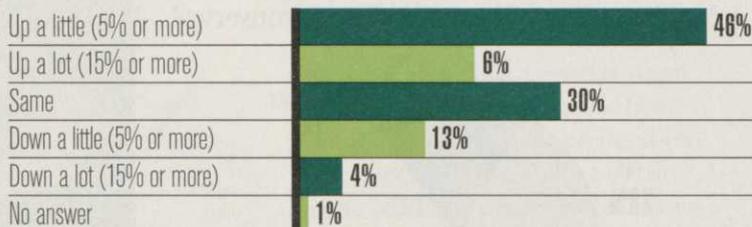
If there's one thing you could change about your job, what would it be?



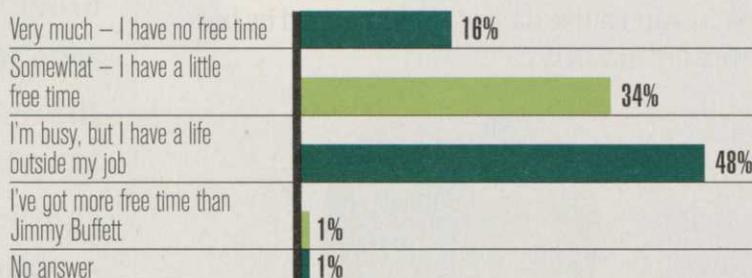
What is the area of your budget you're most likely to cut when asked to do so?



Do you think your 2006 maintenance budget will be...



Do the hours you work impact your life outside the golf course?



Editor's note: Findings are based on responses from 380 superintendents and golf course employees who participated in *Golfdom's* October online survey.