



## President's Message

# MURPHY'S LAWS (FOR GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS)

Have you ever had one of those days when nothing goes right? Well, I have, and I'm getting a little worried because I'm well into the second day of it. It has convinced me, more than ever before, that Murphy must have been a Golf Course Superintendent. You remember Murphy: he's the wise acre who came up with the phrase "Anything that can go wrong — will." Every season his laws are proven true with unbelievable and disgusting consistency; so much so, for me, that I had to write them down. Are there any here that you recognize?

## LAWS OF THE GOLF COURSE

The weather is either too hot, too cold, too dry, too wet — or too good to last.

Next year's weather will be better for us.

More often than not, bad weather reports will be right and good weather reports will be wrong.

The Greensaire will always break down with three greens to go — too late to cancel aerifying and with enough left to aggravate play tomorrow.

The sprayer breaks down when pythium is running wild on your fairways.

The impeller on the Lely spreader will break when it's full of fertilizer.

The seeder breaks down the day before a rain. And it will rain right after contact fungicides have been applied.

## BUDGET LAWS

Everything you decide to do on the golf course costs more than first estimated and budgeted. It also will always take longer than you planned and more time than you have.

The cost of fertilizer drops \$40 a ton the day after you buy.

Bentgrass seed will be sold out the day before you order.

Discrepancies in your budget never will be in your favor.

## SHOP LAWS

Your distributor's parts department will always lack one part — the one you need.

The wrong part will come in the right box.

A machine will break down immediately after the warranty is up.

A battery will go dead the day after the warranty expires.

Leftover nuts never match leftover bolts.

You will have every size of bolt in your bins except the size you need.

The right tool isn't ever in the right toolbox.

If you tinker around with something long enough, it will break or malfunction.

Anything used or loaded to its full potential or capacity will break.

If something jams, force it; if it breaks, so what? You needed to replace it anyway.

## LAWS OF GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT

The day; no, the very minute you lean back to relax is the very time the Club President and the Green Committee Chairman stop by. They also like to stop on those rare occasions when you are gone — usually only on a parts run.

Precise, conscientious planning and minute attention to detail will never succeed like blind dumb luck.

A Golf Course Superintendent always thinks next year will be better.

The first place to look for something is in the last place you'd expect to find it.

Just when you think things are going pretty well on the golf course, something really ugly is right around the corner.

If you faithfully work ten hours a day for long enough on your golf course you may eventually be successful enough to work twelve hours a day. (Thank you, Robert Frost!) You will never "have it made."

And finally, as my Dad used to tell all of us kids as we walked through the barnyard, **never** step in anything soft!

I think I'll go home and take a nap. Wonder if my pickup will start?

Monroe S. Miller  
President

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