



## Advice From Willet Wilt

By Ken Kubik

**Editor's Note:** The following pieces were written by a person who obviously knows a lot about trials and tribulations of a golf course superintendent. That person is Ken Kubik. Ken's pen name is Willet Wilt.

Ken is from New Jersey, and his humorous writing appears in THE GREENERSIDE, official publication of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey.

Ken is part of a company called, coincidentally, **Grass Roots Turf Products**. He is highly appreciated and respected by the GCSANJ. The November-December 1992 issue had an editorial that paid tribute to Ken's contributions.

You are going to enjoy these two short humorous essays. The first, "Working with Budget Cuts", appeared in Vol. 15 No. 2 of THE GREENER-SIDE. "Speeding Up Play" appeared in Vol. 15 No. 3 of THE GREENER-SIDE.

Our sincere thanks to the editor of THE GREENER-SIDE, Ilona Gray, for her permission to share these with you. Ilona does an excellent job of editing New Jersey's award winning journal.

And our thanks to Willet Wilt, a.k.a. Ken Kubik, for putting smiles on all our faces!

### Working with Budget Cuts

By Willet Wilt (a.k.a. Ken Kubik)

Willet Wilt has developed a number of cost-saving measures that can be introduced on the golf course during these difficult economic times. The possible saving measures are as follows:

Don't change pin placements. Have seven locations on each green numbered from one to seven. The golfer is to putt to the hole that corresponds with the day of the week.

Replace the Evian and Perrier water in the coolers with pond water.

Make your own tee markers, i.e., recycle old golf shoes from the locker room by painting them red, white, and blue.

Take courses in rain dancing in order to save on irrigation.

Don't fertilize. Let cows graze on the fairways—you have probably heard comments about a cow pasture anyway.

Make your own putting cups from old coffee cans. Remember to punch a big hole in the middle for the flag stick. A rake handle can be used for a flag stick and used tee towels for flags. Use magic marker to write the hole number on the tee towel, a.k.a. flag.

Don't get new tee towels—just buy replacement grommets.

Cutting the greens, tees and fairways at the same height will eliminate the need for multiple mowers. If you do this, expect to have slow greens and fast fairways.

Replace the floral plantings on the course with plastic flowers that can be reused every year. These can be cemented in old tires and moved about the golf course wherever needed.

Old tree stumps make good benches. Try to cut the trees required as close to the tee as possible.

Old 55 gallon drums can be used as waste receptacles. Remember to clean out all toxic chemicals and paint them natural colors to blend in with the environment.

Let the rough grow to U.S. Open standards. This will give you a manpower savings and increase your supply of golf balls.

Terminate your mechanic and take all your equipment repairs to "Mr. Goodwrench".

Don't replace the golf ball washer soap. Just tell the golfers not to breathe as they clean their golf balls.

You can realize an approximate savings on your budget of 8% if you eliminate a par five hole from play.

Willet Wilt hopes that these cost-saving measures, if implemented, will stretch your golf course maintenance budget. A video of these measures in action can be purchased c/o Ken Kubik, Mt. Freedom, NJ. 🌱

### Speeding Up Play

By Willet Wilt (a.k.a. Ken Kubik)

In an effort to speed up play on the golf course and, therefore, produce a round of golf that is more fun to play, Willet has come up with some rather innovative ideas.

The three different flag colors being used for the last couple of years do not go far enough. The colors now only indicate whether the pin position is in the front, middle, or back of the green. Willet suggests that you also put a large L, C or R on the flag so you will now know whether the pin is located on the left, center or right of the green.

Once you do get on the green, there will now be one of three different colored flag poles. This would be according to the stimp meter reading of the speed of the greens for that day. If the green is slow, the pole would be red; if they're fast, it would be green; and if they're right in the middle, the flag pole would be yellow.

Play can be speeded up by reducing the time spent trying to decide what golf club to use. The number of golf clubs allowed will be reduced from 14 to three. You get to have a wood, an iron and a putter.

The golfers will only be allowed to have between three and six golf balls when playing a round of golf, depending on the difficulty of the golf course. Once a player has lost the allotted number of golf balls, the round will be considered over.

The next thing to be implemented will be borrowed from football. It seems that the golfer wants to know at all times how far he or she is away from the center of the green. We now have yardage markers in various forms on and around the fairways. The need for this will no longer be necessary. Willet Wilt recommends that all fairways be marked just like a football field—markings will be placed down the center of the fairway in ten yard increments with each yard marked out in between. In this way, the golfers will know exactly how far they are from the center of the green at all times.

Now we will borrow from the NBA 24-second shot clock. The golfers will have 24 seconds to complete all the necessary putts in order to get the ball into the cup. If the shot clock (soon to be called the "putt clock") will go off, and he or she will be penalized one stroke.

Willet is now seeking courses to volunteer to initiate these innovative methods of shortening the time it takes to play a round of golf. All interested parties should call Willet Wilt's agent, Ken Kubik, ASAP. 🌱