DR. JAMES R. WATSON  "Distinguished Service Award Winner"

Dr. James R. Watson, director of agronomy at the Toro Company, is recognized as a pioneer in the field of turfgrass research. A 1947 graduate of Texas A&M University with a B.S. degree in agronomy, he earned his Ph. D. at Penn State University in 1950. While at Penn State, Dr. Watson held the United States Golf Association Green Section fellowship.

Later he was an assistant professor in the Department of Agronomy at Texas A&M, then joined Toro in 1952.

During his extensive career, Dr. Watson has conducted research on adaptability of species and cultivars of turfgrass; fertilization practices; irrigation and compaction effects on fairway turf; snowmold prevention; techniques for the winter protection of turfgrasses and similar studies.

As well as being a contributor to several standard texts on turfgrass science, Dr. Watson has authored more than 400 articles on turfgrass care and management, water conservation, cultural practices and other areas of interest to the green industry.

In his position as vice president/customer relations with Toro, his work encompasses the areas of equipment development and evaluation, customer relations and agronomic consultation. As a frequent lecturer at national and international turfgrass conferences, he is a leading exponent of the critical need to conserve water, utilize waste waters and evaluate the role of water in turfgrass care and management, as well as the need for development and use of drought and salinity tolerant turfgrasses.

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