

DR. JOSEPH M. DUICH NAMED RECIPIENT OF THE 1981 USGA GREEN SECTION AWARD

Dr. Joseph M. Duich, professor of turfgrass science and turfgrass project leader at Pennsylvania State University, in University Park, Pennsylvania, has been named the recipient of the 1981 Green Section Award, presented by the United States Golf Association in recognition of his distinguished service to golf through work with turfgrass.

In 1961, the USGA established the Green Section Award to honor those persons requiring special recognition for distinguished service to golf in any phase of work with turfgrass, i.e., research, education, extension, superintendence, maintenance, and management, etc.

The USGA believes that there are many individuals who have made immeasurable contributions respecting the arena upon which the game of golf is played. Their contributions and services may be evidenced by their achievements over a number of years or by a single act.

In continuing to present the Green Section Award, the USGA wishes to identify, celebrate, and hold up for emulation individuals, such as Dr. Joseph M. Duich, who exemplify outstanding dedication to golf through their work with turfgrass.

Dr. Duich, who began his career as a 14 year old boy pushing a hand greensmower, has been dedicated to golf turfgrass improvement in the succeeding 38 years from turf student to teacher-researcher.

Trained under the late H.B. Musser, professor emeritus of agronomy at Penn State and the 1966 Green Section Award recipient, Dr. Duich earned his B.S. degree in 1952 and his Ph.D. in 1957 in agronomy.

Over the years, Dr. Duich has significantly contributed to better golf through research, teaching, and education. His turf research contributions have been concerned with grass varietal improvement, varietal evaluation, roadside development, weed control, turf-disease relationships, fertilization, and soil modification. Among his breeding contributions are the varieties Pennstar Kentucky bluegrass, Pennfine Perennial ryegrass, and the Penneagle and Penncross bentgrasses.

As a result of his knowledge of and dedication to seed quality, he has devoted considerable effort in the area of turfgrass seed specifications and has long fought for a separate label system for turfgrass seed.

Concurrent with the research program has been his role in the phenomenal success of the two-year Penn State Turfgrass Winter Course Program which he has directed since 1959. This highly selective program has graduated 636 students from 24 states, Canada, Mexico, and France. Dr. Duich has been instrumental in raising funds for 111 turf student scholarships, the largest such program in the United States.

Dr. Duich serves as the program's technical advisor and has directed the work of many undergraduates, M.S. and Ph.D. candidates. Many of his former students now hold top positions as golf course superintendents and in other facets of the turfgrass industry, due mainly to his tireless efforts to promote training positions and to direct the job placements of the students with employers.

For his outstanding teaching, Dr. Duich received the Gamma Sigma Delta Teaching Award in 1974 and the Northeast American Society of Agronomy Teaching Award in 1976. The GCSAA presented Dr. Duich with its Distinguished Service Award in 1976 due in part to his teaching contributions and effectiveness. Among

his other honors, Dr. Duich was named a Fellow of the American Society for Advancement of Science in 1964 and was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award of the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council in 1974. Dr. Duich is an honorary member of several turfgrass and golf course superintendents associations.

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