

Roy Goss, Turf Expert, Retires

PUYALLUP — Dr. Roy Goss, a Washington State University agronomist and turfgrass expert known to industry leaders throughout the United States and in other parts of the world, has retired after more than 30 years with the school.



Associated with WSU since he was an undergraduate in 1948, Goss has spent most of his life and career as a turf scientist at the Western Washington Research and Extension Center in Puyallup, beginning in 1958.

As he enters retirement, Goss and his wife, Marcella, have established an endowment to strengthen the turfgrass education and research programs at Washington State University. An initial gift of \$25,000 has been forwarded to the Development Office of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics.

It will parallel the O. A. Vogel Wheat Research Fund established a few years ago that has grown into a \$600,000 program.

His turfgrass work with WSU has not only brought him international recognition but also set standards for maintenance and establishment of both commercial and home turf.

Earlier this month, in Houston, Goss was cited by the Golf Course Superintendents' Association and the U.S. Golf Association as their man-of-the-year for his contributions to golf course maintenance and development.

The major emphasis in his programs has been on turfgrass nutrition where he developed nutritional ratios for all types of turf including specialized turfgrasses such as golf course putting greens and sports fields.

Guidelines and specifications for sand-based putting greens and sports field construction which are standards in the trade today, including those used by the Seattle Seahawks professional football team, were begun by Goss.

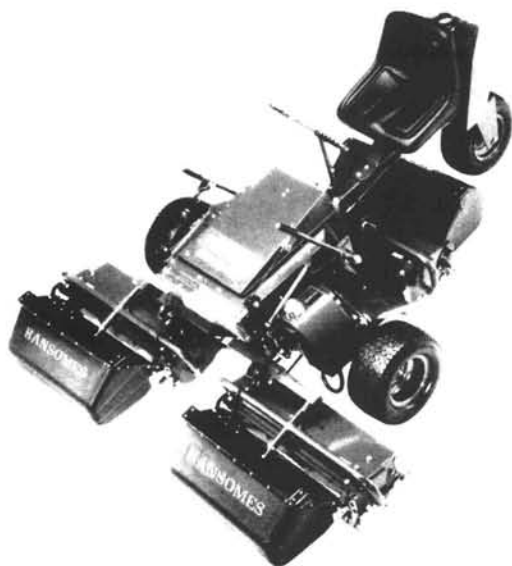
Goss also developed and promoted specialized programs for natural grass athletic fields and golf course putting greens with sand profiles for better drainage and extended use.

He served as executive secretary for the Northwest Turfgrass Association for 25 years and is an honorary lifetime member at the organization. He is an honorary member of the Northwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, Inland Empire Association of Golf Course Superintendents, and the Western Canada Turfgrass Association.

He also is a recipient of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Distinguished Service Award, the Pacific Seedsmen Association Man of the Year Award, and the O. A. Vogel Faculty Award from WSU.

Born in Wesleco, Texas, Dr. Goss graduated from high school in Oklahoma, volunteered for the U.S. Navy at the age of 17 in June of 1943 and served until the end of the war on the Battleship U.S.S. Indiana in the South Pacific.

During summers from 1946 through 1950, he was a smoke jumper squad leader with the U.S. Forest Service at Winthrop, Wash., a unit designed to parachute to forest fires.



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