

# Penn State Speaker Sees Big Turf Demands Ahead

By George Van Horn

"Many more demands will be made on turf people in the next 15 years than are being made today," Howard B. Sprague, head of the Penn State agronomy dept., said at the banquet held at the university in conjunction with the 29th Penn turf conference. About 250 persons attended the four-day session.

Sprague said that researchers and supts. are making great contributions to basic knowledge and its practical application in the turf field. He urged those now in turf work to encourage young men with vigor and talent to come into the field to help meet the challenge of the future.

## Non-creeping Bent Research

Houston B. Couch, Penn State pathologist, speaking at the opening day session, pointed out that the fruit fungicide, Dyrene, shows great promise in the control of the melting-out in Kentucky bluegrass. It should be applied at rates of 4 and 8 ozs. per 1,000 sq. ft., with the latter rated the most effective. Couch added that Dyrene has been tested only one year at Penn State. Acti-dione Thiram also has proved to be an excellent product in this respect.

Progress in the development of non-creeping bent was described by Albert Dudeck, graduate assistant at the Penn agronomy station. His research has been confined to the inheritance patterns of the creeping habits of Colonial and has been carried out under a USGA fellowship. The European chafer, a brother in crime with the Japanese beetle, was described by Mac A. Campbell, U.S.D.A. plant pest control specialist. The chafer, Campbell said, has occupied New York and West Virginia but hasn't invaded Pennsylvania.

## Compaction Report

Walter E. Swartz, a graduate assistant, who has made a series of compaction studies, revealed that as traffic and moisture increase on natural or modified soils, decreases in total pore space, aeration capacity and water movement occur. Albert Hunter, Penn State soil technologist, discussing the value of lime in turf growth, gave several reasons why pH should be kept in the range of 6 to 7. Among them are that it makes plant food more readily available, cuts down on toxic materials and aids the activity of soil microbes. Grasses



Herb A. Waterous, Woodstock, N. Y. (l) and David F. Dobie, North Olmsted, O. (center) get \$100 scholarship certificates from Paul Leix, supt. of Allegheny CC, Pittsburgh, who represents the GCSA. Presentation took place at Penn State turf conference.

in well-limed soils, Hunter said, are more weed resistant and more capable of converting dead plant material into nutrients.

Guest speakers at the conference included C. G. Wilson, Milwaukee Sewerage Commission; Felix Juska, U.S.D.A.; R. T. Miller of du Pont, J. B. Beard, Purdue University; Harry C. Eckhoff, National Golf Fdn.; and Tom Mascaro, West Point Products Corp.

Other speakers representing Penn State were M. A. Farrell, H. B. Musser, F. C. Snyder, C. D. Jeffries, J. C. Harper III, J. R. Bloom, J. M. Duich, B. R. Fleming and L. D. Moore.

## Two Sponsors

The turf conference was sponsored by the University's agronomy dept. and the research advisory committee of the local GCSA. J. M. Duich was general chmn.

In addition to the scholarship awards made to David F. Dobie and Herbert A. Waterous (see photo), the Albert E. Cooper Memorial Scholarship, donated by Pocono Turfgrass Assn., was given to Harold J. Reed of Centre Hall, Pa.

## More Fun to Dream

At Ft. Myers (Fla.) CC this winter two Ladies Day events have been introduced that other clubs may wish to copy. One is known as an "Accuracy" tournament and the other the "Golfers' Dream" tournament. In the former, the player adds a stroke each time she hits the rough, another for landing in a trap and a third when more than two putts are taken on any green. In the dream event, the player replaces the score of her three worst holes with par figures.