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Answers
to turf
questions

by Fred V. Grau

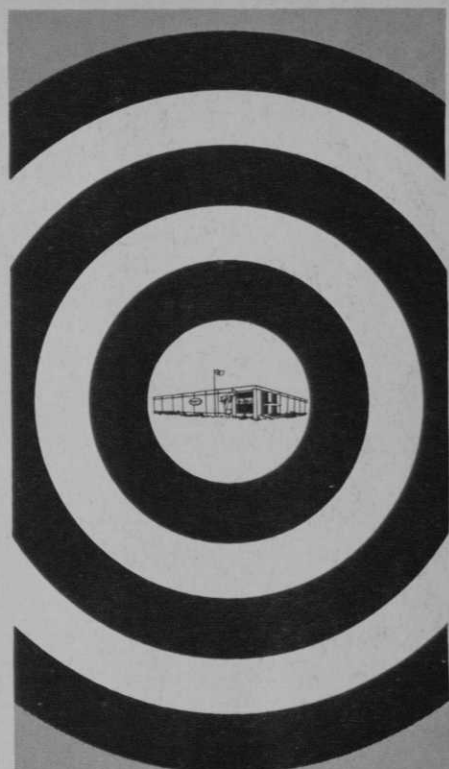
Duich honored

At the Beltsville Turfgrass Field Day in August Dr. Joseph M. Duich of Penn State was presented with an honorary membership in the Merion Bluegrass Assn. Margaret Herbst made the presentation assisted by this writer who sketched a brief background of Dr. Duich's contributions to turf and particularly to Merion Kentucky bluegrass.

The first honorary members were: Joseph Valentine, Professor H. B. Musser and Fred V. Grau. The passing of Valentine and Musser created a vacancy which now has been filled by a man who is particularly deserving of the honor.

Dr. Duich's work with Merion helped to develop new and improved bluegrasses, which along with Merion, are basic to the entire turfgrass industry wherever bluegrasses are grown. The development of Merion led to the development of the infant sod industry. The rooting character-

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Since moving into our new plant and service center many customers and turf industry groups have visited our large display floor where the latest in turf equipment is exhibited... Our conference rooms and irrigation design department have provided our customers with a single place for all their equipment and irrigation needs. Truly the center of turf equipment activity in Southern California is B. Hayman. Visit us!



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GRAU

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istics of Merion, with its ability to tolerate close mowing and elite appearance, gave the sod growers a tremendous sales pitch, of which they quickly took advantage. Today we talk in terms of blends but rarely is there a blend without Merion. It imparts a quality found in no other bluegrass.

Thus, the award presented to Dr. Duich is an expression of gratitude for the important part he has played in building a firm foundation not only for Merion Kentucky bluegrass, but also for the entire bluegrass industry.

Q.—For a number of years we have heard about systemics in relation to Dutch Elm disease, to grass diseases and to insecticides. The popular version was "when the bug bites the plant, the plant bites back." Has there been progress with systemics?

(Ohio)

A.—Yes, there have been definite breakthroughs in systemic control of diseases and insects. One has to do with stripe smut on grasses. Another controls dollarspot and brownpatch. I am sorry I cannot catalog the various developments—some are still being developed to the point where they can have an approval label. Watch for releases from experiment stations and from firms which manufacture and sell the products. They are well worth waiting for.

Q.—We have an 18-hole golf course near Cadiz in southern Spain. There is very little water during summer; no rain falls from early spring through the fall. We must either irrigate (when water is available) or develop turf that will survive throughout the summer with