

YOUNGER NAMED AWARD RECIPIENT

The late Dr. Victor B. Youngner, who developed Santa Ana bermudagrass, has been selected as the recipient of the 1985 Green Section Award, presented by the United States Golf Association in recognition of distinguished service to golf through work with turfgrass.

The award will be presented to Dr. Youngner's widow, Violet, on February 12 at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America annual banquet at the Sheraton Washington in Washington, D.C. The presentation will be made by George M. Bard, Chairman of the U.S.G.A. Green Section Award Committee.

In presenting the Green Section Award, the U.S.G.A. wishes to identify, celebrate and hold up for emulation individuals, such as Dr. Youngner, who exemplify outstanding dedication to golf through their work with turfgrass.

Born in Nelson, Minnesota, Dr. Youngner had his college education interrupted in

1942 by World War II. After serving three years in the Air Corps, he earned his bachelor of science and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Minnesota, where he developed his expertise in plant breeding and plant growth and development.

Dr. Youngner joined the faculty of the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1955. He worked on turfgrass breeding and maintenance studies until 1965 when he moved to the Riverside campus of the University of California.

One of his greatest accomplishments was the development of the Santa Ana bermudagrass which offers a smooth, dark-green turf with tolerance to smog and salt. It is a grass used widely in golf courses and other intensely used turfed sites in the southwest United States. A new variety of zoysiagrass from the "Youngner Breeding Program," named El Toro, is presently being patented for release.

Dr. Youngner was also active in problem-solving turfgrass research in the areas of mowing, fertilization, irrigation and weed control as well as wear resistance, salinity and air pollution tolerance.

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