

1974

Green Section Education Conference

"Managing Turf In The 70s"

Howard B. Sprague

14th Recipient of USGA Green Section Award

Dr. Howard B. Sprague of the Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa., has become the 14th recipient of the USGA Green Section Award for "distinguished service to golf through work with turfgrass." Dr. Sprague accepted the Award during the Annual Green Section Conference on Golf Course Management at the Biltmore Hotel, New York City, on January 25, 1974.

Dr. Sprague has headed the Department of Agronomy at Penn State since 1953 and is Chairman of the Plant Science Division. He is a Fellow and past President of the American Society of Agronomy, and he has had an active career in other professional and scientific organizations. His special fields of interest include plant physiology, plant nutrition, plant breeding, ecology of crop plants, crop production, soil fertility and management, grassland agriculture, management of grazing lands, grounds and land management at military installations, and turfgrass management.

He was a pioneer in the study of *Poa annua*. His bulletin, issued at Rutgers University in the early 1930s on the life habits of the species,

was an exceptional contribution to the literature. Dr. Sprague also contributed bulletins on turfgrass nutrition, the role of lime in turfgrass production and experiments on golf turfgrasses applicable on a national scale. Among his many contributions, perhaps none ranks higher than his discovery of the pH factor in the management of fine turfgrasses. He was among the first to recognize the potential of the turfgrass industry, and he was instrumental in establishing a strong turfgrass program at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J. Rutgers has been a national leader in this field.

Dr. Sprague has written over 50 professional and scientific papers as well as three recent books dealing with agronomics. His most recent book, *Turf Management Handbook*, is a basic work written for the homeowner. It is a book whose importance will grow as we increasingly appreciate the role of turfgrass in our environment.

Born in Cortland, Neb., in 1898, Dr. Sprague's name added to those of past Green Section Award Recipients brings it ever greater meaning and significance in the field of turfgrass management for golf.