

**1981
GREEN SECTION
EDUCATION
CONFERENCE**

Dr. Joseph M. Duich Named Recipient of the 1981 USGA Green Section Award

IN 1961, the USGA established the Green Section Award to honor those who deserve special recognition for distinguished service to golf in any phase of work with turfgrass — research, education, extension, superintendence, maintenance, and management.

The USGA believes that many individuals have made immeasurable contributions respecting the arena upon which golf is played. Their contributions and services may be evidenced by their achievements over a number of years or by a single act.

In continuing to present the Green Section Award, the USGA wishes to identify, celebrate, and recognize individuals who exemplify outstanding dedication to golf through their work with turfgrass.

Dr. Joseph M. Duich, who began his career as a 14-year-old boy pushing a hand greens mower, has been dedicated to golf turfgrass improvement in the succeeding 38 years from student to teacher-researcher.

Dr. Duich took his training under the late H. B. Musser, professor emeritus of agronomy at Penn State University, the 1966 Green Section Award recipient. He earned his bachelor's degree in 1952 and his Ph.D. in 1957 in agronomy.

Over the years, Dr. Duich has contributed significantly to better golf turfgrass through research, teaching, and education. His turf research contributions have been concerned with grass varietal improvement, varietal evaluation, roadside development, weed

control, turf-disease relationships, fertilization, and soil modification. Among his breeding contributions are the varieties Pennstar Kentucky bluegrass, Pennfine perennial ryegrass, and the Penneagle and Penncross bentgrasses.

As a result of his knowledge, perseverance and dedication to seed quality, he has devoted considerable effort in the area of turfgrass seed specifications.

Concurrent with the research program has been his role in the phenomenal success of the two-year Penn State Turfgrass Winter Course Program which he has directed since 1959. This highly selective program has graduated 636 students from 24 states, Canada, Mexico, and France. Dr. Duich has been instrumental in raising funds for 111 turf student scholarships, the largest such program in the United States.

Dr. Duich serves as the program's technical advisor and has directed the work of many undergraduates, M.S. and Ph.D. candidates. Many of his former students now hold top positions as golf course superintendents and in other facets of the turfgrass industry, mainly because of his tireless efforts to promote training positions and to direct the job placements of the students with employers.

Through his efforts as turfgrass project leader, the Penn State Turfgrass Project has developed an extremely effective research-teaching team. Dr. Duich has raised nearly \$300,000 in

non-governmental research funds and \$85,000 in equipment. As a result, research facilities have expanded nearly tenfold.

DURING THE PAST 22 years, Dr. Duich has presented over 150 papers and addresses to national, regional, state, and local associations and groups. He has advanced the turf profession in his personal consulting role with dozens of golf clubs in the United States and Canada, with key industrial organizations such as DuPont, Sun Oil, Eli Lilly, and AT&T; and with seed producers, seed companies, sod growers, and insurance companies. He has also served as a turf consultant to several professional golf tournaments.

For his outstanding teaching, Dr. Duich received the Gamma Sigma Delta Teaching Award in 1974 and the Northeast American Society of Agronomy Teaching Award in 1976. Also in 1976, he received the Distinguished Service Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America due in part to his teaching contributions and effectiveness. Among his other honors, Dr. Duich was named a Fellow of the American Society of Advancement of Science in 1964 and was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award of the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council in 1974. Dr. Duich is an honorary member of several turfgrass and golf course superintendents associations.