



THE USGA RESEARCH COMMITTEE (left to right): Dr. Paul E. Rieke, James G. Prusa, George M. Bard, Alexander M. Radko, James B. Moncrief, Dr. James R. Watson, Charles W. Smith, Dr. Marvin H. Ferguson, William H. Bengeyfield.

Update on the Green Section's Turfgrass Research Committee

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ORGANIZED IN January, 1982, the Green Section Turfgrass Research Advisory Committee has had a short but very active career. In 1983 alone, the Committee met four times for a total of 12 days. Its purpose is to develop and guide the USGA's multi-million dollar turfgrass research efforts over the next 10 or more years. The goal is development of Minimal Maintenance Turfgrasses for Golf.

Never before has such an intensive and extensive turfgrass research project been undertaken. In the spring of 1982, turfgrass researchers throughout the nation were invited to express their views and interests in research needs. Gradually, a long range plan evolved from the Committee's work, objectives were established and guidelines carefully drawn. The USGA Fund Raising Campaign, inaugurated in 1983, moved into full swing.

Last September, the USGA Executive Committee approved the Research Committee's recommendations and an initial funding of \$330,000 for 1984 was established. Again, turfgrass scientists around the country were asked to submit outlines and proposals for specific projects. Over 55 papers were received. In mid-November, 1983, the Committee met for three days in Dallas, Texas, and reviewed each proposal in detail. Finally, 20 were selected for initial funding in 1984. They include:

- A. A Turfgrass Research-Computer Data Base Library.
- B. A study of Physiological Plant Stress Mechanisms.
- C. Breeding Projects in:
 - Zoysiagrass and Kikuyugrass
 - Native Grasses (Buffalograss, Crested Wheatgrass, Saltgrass, Paspalum, others)
 - Poa annua
 - Bluegrass/Ryegrass
 - Bermudagrass (Seeded Forms and Stolionized Forms)
 - Bentgrass (Creeping and Colonial)
- D. Cultural Practices — Management
- E. Cultural Practices — Water
- F. Cultural Practices — Pathology

Most of the projects will require two or more years of funding. Some of the breeding projects and almost all of the cultural studies will require increasing funding in succeeding years. Additionally, new projects are anticipated and will be added as funds become available. It is the most comprehensive and substantially funded turfgrass research effort in the history of agriculture.

It is the hope of the Research Committee that other organizations, now or in the future, having an interest in and raising money for turfgrass research

will consider coordinating their projects and efforts with those of the Green Section's Advisory Committee. Through cooperation and communication, all turfgrass research funds will thereby be used to maximum advantage. Too often in the past, scarce monies have been spent on repetition and duplication of research. Too many new and potentially worthwhile projects have been abandoned or, at best, poorly supported. Turfgrass interests can no longer afford this wastefulness of scientific talent and resources. Only through cooperative efforts can waste be stopped.

AMONG THE Green Section's Turfgrass Research Advisory Committee are some of the nation's leading turfgrass experts. Comprising the Committee are Dr. Marvin H. Ferguson, Research Director, American Society of Golf Course Architects; Dr. Paul E. Rieke, Associate Professor, Michigan State University; Dr. James R. Watson, Vice-President, The Toro Company; James G. Prusa, Assistant Executive Director, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America; George M. Bard, Chairman, USGA Green Section Committee; Frank Hannigan, USGA Senior Executive Director; Charles W. Smith, USGA Director, Administration and Services; James B. Moncrief, former Director, USGA Green Section's Southeastern Region; William H. Bengeyfield, USGA Green Section National Director. The members serve without compensation and at the pleasure of the USGA Executive Committee.

It is the Research Committee's intention to bring a greater sense of direction, cost effectiveness, and concentration to the vital areas of turfgrass research for golf. It further intends to establish specific agreements, monitor expenditures, set certain expectations, insure proper progress and to be accountable to those providing funds. The Committee's entire purpose is to establish a sound program, closely follow its progress and achieve the objectives it has before it. Individuals or organizations interested in supporting turfgrass research may wish to contact Mr. Don Spencer, USGA Golf House, Far Hills, New Jersey 07931 for further details.

Future updating of research projects and progress will be reported in the *RECORD*. The turfgrass industry is obviously preparing itself to move into the 21st Century.