

James B. Moncrief

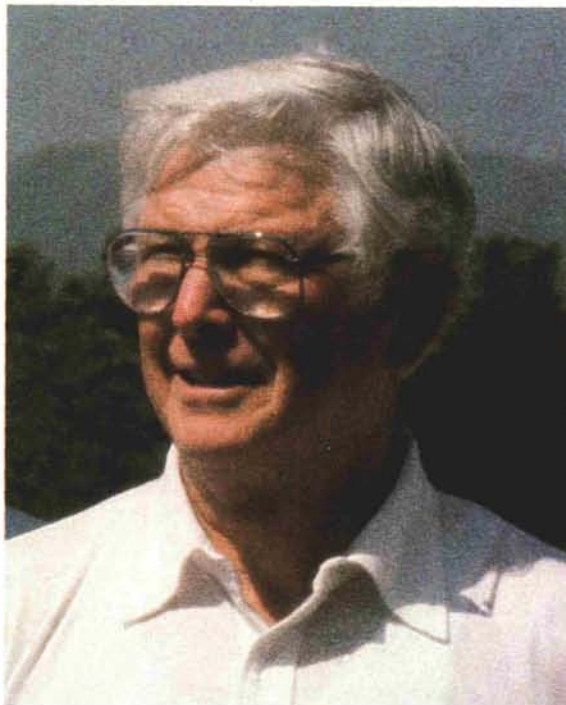
USGA Green Section 1986 Award Recipient

FOR NEARLY 30 years, James B. Moncrief has served the interests of better turf for golf, and in doing so has traveled a million-and-a-half miles across the sunbelt of the United States and made 5,000 visits to golf courses. On February 3, 1986, he became the 26th recipient of the USGA Green Section Award, in recognition of distinguished service to golf through work with turfgrass.

The Award was presented by Frank D. Tatum, Jr., of San Francisco, former President of the USGA, at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's Annual Conference and Banquet, at the San Francisco Hilton Hotel. Twenty-five hundred dinner guests attended. Earlier in the day, the Annual Green Section Education Conference attracted over 1,000 superintendents and club officials from around the world.

Jim Moncrief, of Athens, Georgia, came to the Green Section Staff in February, 1957, from the Dallas, Texas, Parks Department. He served as a USGA agronomist in the Southeastern Region for three years and thus began his long career of golf course visits, conference speaking, writing, and collecting of everything unusual in turfgrass management. In 1960 he was named Director of the Green Section's Southeastern Region.

A GRADUATE of Texas A&M University, Monty was at home with turfgrasses on golf courses across the nation's southern tier, from the Carolinas to the Arizona deserts. He also consulted with clubs in South America and the Caribbean. During one of his trips, he noticed an especially fine-leaved bermudagrass mutant on the 12th green of the Florence Country Club, in Florence,



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South Carolina, collected samples of the grass, and transferred them on to Dr. Glenn W. Burton, plant geneticist of the University of Georgia Coastal Plains Experiment Station. This grass was later to be called Tifdwarf bermudagrass, the finest-leaved bermudagrass available in the world today.

Collector he was. He brought samples of grasses, diseases, insects, soils, ideas — everything imaginable for university researchers to probe and investigate. If he missed anything, no one noticed. As an extension teacher, no one was better informed or more willing to search out the answers.

He retired from the Green Section Staff in 1982, but he has continued to serve as a member of the USGA Green Section Turf Research Advisory Committee.

"As a Texas sharecropper's son," he said, "I've been privileged to work with turfgrasses all my life, and I've made a lot of friends along the way."

Indeed he has. He is a member of the Oklahoma Turfgrass Hall of Fame and a recipient of the Texas Turfgrass Association's A. W. Crain Diamond Award. He is a member of the American Society of Agronomy and a Certified Professional Agronomist. He served on the Editorial Board for the USGA publication *Turf Management for Golf Courses*, a book by James B. Beard.

"Receiving the Green Section Award is simply the most wonderful thing ever to happen to me professionally," he said when he was notified of his selection.