

Roy L. Goss — USGA Green Section Award Recipient for 1988

IN 32 YEARS as Turfgrass Extension Specialist for Washington State University, Roy Goss never shied from a direct, difficult question; he always gave a direct, reasoned, and straightforward answer. Goss has other qualities as well. He has performed brilliantly as a research scientist, lecturer, organizer, and even found time to design golf courses. He developed a successful sod farm, sailed the waters of the Pacific Northwest, and traveled the world attending turf conferences or on sabbatical leave, always carrying the message of basic turfgrass science to those willing to listen.

On February 8, 1988, in Houston, Texas, Dr. Roy L. Goss received the Green Section Award, the highest recognition the USGA bestows in the field of turfgrass management. F. Morgan Taylor, Jr., of Hobe Sound, Florida, Chairman of the USGA Green Section Committee, made the presentation before 2,000 guests at the annual Golf Course Superintendents Association of America banquet, which traditionally closes the GCSAA International Turfgrass Conference and Show.

Roy Goss came to Washington State in 1956, bringing with him a Ph.D. in agronomy and the upbringing of a small town in West Texas. Before long he developed the first Annual Northwest Turfgrass Conference. People came not only from Washington state, but from Oregon, Idaho, Montana, northern California, British Columbia, and eventually many other states from all over the country. The conference became one of the best in the United States and Canada. It always presented a solid educational base combined with genuine western hospitality, and over the years the conference traveled to some of the most scenic resort areas in the Northwest.

Goss soon became executive secretary of the Northwest Turfgrass Association,



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and served as editor and chief writer for the publication *Northwest Turfgrass Topics*. His efforts were untiring. He served on the educational advisory committee of the GCSAA, and he received its distinguished service award in 1978. He has been a longtime member of the American Society of Agronomy. He has served on the USGA Green Section Committee for 25 years, wrote many articles for the *RECORD*, and often spoke at Green Section regional and national conferences. He was a frequent speaker at many state turfgrass conferences as well.

In science, he has been one of the most prolific contributors of new knowledge in the past three decades. Early on, he recognized the importance of controlling *Poa annua* seedhead formation if this grass was ever to be suppressed on the golf course. He has worked with turfgrass light intensity requirements, disease resistance studies with Dr. Charles Gould, the largest and most complete varietal bentgrass nursery

test program in the United States, and the effects of sulfur on the turfgrass plant, particularly bentgrass and *Poa annua*. Goss's inquisitiveness led him into weed control research, grass plant nutrition, soils, and irrigation management. His dedication to his science and his contributions to turfgrass management go unchallenged.

He has been both a golfer and friend of golf throughout his remarkable career. Now retired, he leaves a long trail of golf superintendents and club officials as friends. His honesty and scientific integrity are his trademarks.

"This is a very great honor, and I feel most humble," he said as he accepted the Award, which is given for distinguished service to golf through work with turfgrass. He concluded his remarks by saying, "Marcie and I have so many people to thank. I really can't believe it."

But his great host of friends can believe it. They know no one could be more deserving.