

# Green Section Award to Musser

H. Burton Musser, 72, who retired in 1959 as Professor of Agronomy in the School of Agriculture of the Pennsylvania State University, was named the recipient of the Green Section Award of the United States Golf Association for "distinguished service to golf through work with turfgrasses."

Professor Musser was presented with the Award by Clarence W. Benedict, of Greenwich, Conn., before he retired as USGA President, and Henry H. Russell, of Miami, Fla., Chairman of the USGA Green Section Committee, during the Association's confer-

ence on Golf Course Management at the Biltmore Hotel in New York.

Professor Musser was responsible for the development of Penncross bentgrass, Pennlawn fescue and Penngift crown vetch, a plant used mainly for erosion control along the nation's highways.

He began his research which led to the development of Penncross creeping bentgrass in 1937 and released the variety for general use in 1953. The development of Pennlawn fescue was carried on concurrently and took about the same length of time.

*Clarence W. Benedict (right), former USGA President, presents the Green Section Award to Professor H. Burton Musser at the Green Section conference in New York.*



He has written numerous technical works for trade journals and articles for popular magazines, and is the author of "Turf Management," a publication of the USGA.

Perhaps the greatest contribution Professor Musser has made to the field of turfgrass management lies in his role as an educator of men who have entered this field. More than half a dozen men now active in turfgrass management can claim Professor Musser as their major advisor during the times when they pursued their doctoral training.

Professor Musser was graduated from Bucknell in 1914, decided he wanted something other than a liberal arts degree and then attended Penn State, graduating in 1917.

After college he joined the United States Department of Agriculture in 1917, left to serve in the Navy during World War I, returned following the Armistice and then joined the faculty of Penn State in 1922.

From 1930 until his retirement he was in charge of turfgrass research.

He served as a Lt. Colonel in the Army Air Corps during World War II, responsible for dust and erosion control at air fields within continental United States.

Professor Musser was a Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy, is a holder of the service plaque of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and since his retirement has been the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council. During the last five years this organization has raised \$100,000 which it has contributed to Penn State for research.

Professor Musser is the sixth recipient of the Green Section Award. Previous winners were Dr. John Monteith, Jr., of Colorado Springs, Colo.; Prof. Lawrence S. Dickinson, Amherst, Mass.; O. J. Noer, Milwaukee, Wis.; Joseph Valentine, Ardmore, Pa., and Dr. Glenn W. Burton, Tifton, Ga.

The winner receives a replica of the Green Section Award, the original of which hangs in "Golf House," USGA headquarters in New York.

### Effects of Soil Amendments and Irrigation

WAYNE C. MORGAN, J. LETEY, S. J. RICHARDS, and N. VALORAS. University of California, Riverside.

The effects of three physical soil amendments, two irrigation programs, and two surface compaction treatments were determined on the growth of Bermuda grass in a greenhouse experiment. Peat moss, calcined clay, and lignified redwood were used as the amendments and were mixed with a Ramona clay soil on a 30% volume basis.

The top growth was better where irrigation was guided by tensiometer records as compared to a set program of adding one-half inch of water three times a week except for the lignified redwood in which irrigation technique had very little effect. Top growth was

better when the soil surface received no compaction.

In general, the treatments affected root growth similar to the top growth. Calcined clay and lignified redwood reduced the compactability of soil as compared to peat amended and unamended soil. Differences in compactability of the various soil mixes were most pronounced under a set irrigation program.

Water infiltration rates were highest under lignified redwood and calcined clay. Soil compaction had greatest effect upon the infiltration rate of peat amended and unamended soil.