

B.J. JOHNSON RECEIVES THE 1998 USGA GREEN SECTION AWARD

THE 1998 recipient of the USGA Green Section Award is B.J. Johnson, longtime professor at the University of Georgia. Professor Johnson received the award on February 7, 1998, at the annual banquet of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, in Anaheim, California. Granted by a distinguished panel of experts, this annual award recognizes persons for distinguished contributions to golf through their work with turfgrass.

"This is the big one," commented B.J. when informed of his selection by Jim Snow, National Director of the Green Section. Joe England, of Huntington, West Virginia, Chairman of the USGA Green Section Committee, presented the award to Professor Johnson on behalf of the United States Golf Association.

B.J. is a tireless researcher known by his colleagues for his great enthusiasm for his work. His prolific research program has focused on solving practical problems related to golf turf. He has maintained a continuous program throughout his career evaluating herbicide effectiveness. Much of his research has focused on identifying difficult weed problems and then developing cost-effective programs to solve the problem.

A Georgia native, Johnson paid his college tuition at Berry College by rising early every morning to milk 80 cows as part of his work-study program in animal science. The year 1954 was very significant as he graduated from college, got married, obtained his first job as an instructor at the University of Georgia, worked 60 days, and then was drafted into the Korean War by the army.

After two years in Germany, B.J. returned to the University of Georgia Experiment Station at Griffin to work as an instructor. He stayed there until 1959, when he decided to go to Texas A&M University to work on a Master of Science degree in Agronomy. After receiving his degree in 1961, B.J. returned to the Griffin Experiment Station for good.

His career led him through the steps of the university tenure process until he was made a full professor in the Crop

and Soil Science Department in 1980. Since 1972, his 100% research appointment has focused on turfgrass weed control, plant growth regulators, and turfgrass management.

Many letters supporting the nomination of Professor Johnson for the Green Section Award spoke of his position as the most eminent weed scientist in the world related to golf turf. He has published more refereed journal articles, extension bulletins, and conference proceedings than all other turf weed scientists together. His

Professor Johnson not only contributes to the industry by his academic work, but through his volunteer time as well. He has served on countless boards and committees throughout the industry, lending his expertise to many associations and turfgrass groups. As testimony to his tireless efforts for the industry, Johnson has received numerous honors and distinctions from turfgrass associations, superintendents groups, and national professional societies. In 1988, he was named Chosen Fellow in the American



B.J. Johnson has enthusiastically shared his knowledge at countless University of Georgia field days.

research to define the role of plant growth regulators in warm-season grasses has resulted in a significant amount of beneficial and cost-saving information for golf courses around the world. Through his work with bermudagrass he has not only strongly impacted the golf course maintenance industry, but also sports fields and home lawn care. He serves as an excellent example of how science geared toward the improvement of golf courses benefits a great many others as well.

Society of Agronomy, the highest honor given by the ASA for agronomists. In 1989, he was awarded the same distinction by the Crop Science Society of America, the highest honor given by CSSA for crop scientists.

Professor Johnson is the epitome of the true scientist who labors without recognition, never promoting his program or himself, in pursuit of providing scientific knowledge and understanding that is vital to many others. For that, the entire turfgrass industry and many others have benefited.