

DR. NOEL JACKSON

DR. NOEL JACKSON, a distinguished teacher, researcher, and extension specialist from the University of Rhode Island, has been selected as the recipient of the 1999 Green Section Award. In 1960 the USGA Green Section established its Green Section Award, which recognizes persons for outstanding service to golf through their work with turfgrass. When accepting the award, presented at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America conference in Orlando, Florida, on February 14, 1999, Dr. Jackson said, "I consider this award to be the crowning honor of 40 years of turfgrass research."

The selection of Dr. Jackson as the 39th recipient represents two firsts in the history of the award: He is the first turfgrass pathologist so honored, and he is the first recipient to be born, raised, and educated outside the United States, having been born in Yorkshire, England, and educated in the United Kingdom.

Dr. Jackson's academic record includes B.S. and M.S. degrees in agricultural botany from King's College, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, U.K., and a Ph.D. degree in agronomy from the University of Durham, U.K. From 1958 to 1965 he served as a distinguished turfgrass pathologist with the Sports Turf Research Institute in Bingley, England. In 1965 he immigrated to the United States and joined the faculty of the University of Rhode Island, rising to the rank of Professor.

To thousands of golf course superintendents throughout the northern United States, Canada, and northern Europe, Dr. Jackson is renowned for his knowledge of cool-season turfgrass diseases and for his expertise as a turf disease diagnostician. He is highly respected for his prompt and accurate diagnoses and his ability to provide effective and practical disease control recommendations. Throughout his career he has kept close sight of the agronomic factors and their influence on disease activity. His ability to listen, reason, and recommend practical solutions has made him an invaluable ally of golf course superintendents and the golfers they serve. He provides both on-site and lab support as part of his extension program, and he truly enjoys



Dr. Noel Jackson (holding award) with (from left) Matt Nelson, Dave Oatis, and Jim Skorulski, agronomists in the Green Section's Northeast Region.

the close working relationship he has with golf course superintendents.

His academic peers equally admire him for his unique understanding of the relationship between disease and agronomic practices, and for his exceptional knowledge of the taxonomy, biology, and management of turfgrass diseases. Jackson is considered perhaps the finest turfgrass disease diagnostician and is an expert on take-all patch disease and other rhizosphere diseases, anthracnose, yellow tuft, and mycorrhizae of turfgrasses. He helped develop many of the fungicides available today, has authored hundreds of research, extension, and popular articles, and co-authored the seminal work *Fungal Diseases of Amenity Grasses*. This monograph is considered the premier reference on the subject of turfgrass diseases among turfgrass pathologists.

Among Dr. Jackson's greatest contributions has been his unselfish devotion and close personal attention given to his students and to all who ask for his assistance. The classes he teaches are among the most popular at URI, and graduates often remark that his class was one of the most important they took. His enthusiasm in the classroom has attracted many students into the field of turfgrass and golf course management, and he stays in touch with his graduates and follows their careers with interest and support.

He also teaches the highly popular GCSAA seminar *Identification of Turfgrass Diseases*. Another of Dr. Jackson's most acclaimed seminars, *Are We Mowing Our Greens to*

Death?, was so popular that he agreed to have it videotaped to allow golf course superintendents to show it to their course officials. As one supporter said, "Dr. Jackson is never afraid to take a stand on what he thinks is best for the turf, the golf course superintendent, and the course."

Dr. Jackson was instrumental in establishing the Rhode Island Turfgrass Foundation and founding the Rhode Island Turfgrass Conference and Show. He also was very influential in merging the Rhode Island conference with the Massachusetts conference into the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show, drawing more than 2,000 attendees annually.

As a speaker, Dr. Jackson has few peers. His seminar topics and research studies are on the cutting edge of the industry's needs, and his enthusiasm for the topics he presents is infectious. He has the very rare ability to explain complex subjects to any type of audience with clarity and wonderful humor.

A statement from one of his admirers says it best: "Dr. Jackson's vast experience and knowledge in turfgrass agronomy and pathology; his dedication to research, teaching, and extension work; his insight, sense of humor, willingness to share ideas, ability to communicate effectively, and his love for his profession make him one of the most respected men in our industry. Mention Dr. Jackson's name and nearly every New England golf course superintendent, and many golfers, will have a story or instance where Dr. Jackson has had a positive influence in their career, on the golf course, or in their lives."