



The Turfgrass Information Center

PRESS RELEASE

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Watson Materials to Reside at Michigan State University's Turfgrass Information Center

East Lansing, Michigan, October 13, 2016 – The Turfgrass Information Center, of the Michigan State University Libraries, is pleased to announce the arrival of a major donation of turfgrass industry materials from the family of the late Dr. James R. Watson. Included are a wide range of materials with hundreds of monographs, including university extension publications and bulletins, as well as 2,000+ issues of periodical titles, and assorted handwritten notes, loose articles, project binders, corporate-related papers, advertisements, commercial items, business correspondence, and personal papers. Dr. Watson's materials also came with a few dozen boxes of slides and photographic materials, which could well be of significance to the history of the discipline.

Dr. Watson (1920-2013) was known for a variety of turfgrass-related accomplishments, both nationally and internationally. He received his bachelor's degree in agronomy in 1947 from Texas A&M University and in 1950 earned his doctorate from Penn State University. After graduating, he became an assistant professor at Texas A&M before joining the Toro Company in 1952 as the Director of Agronomy. Dr. Watson was responsible during that time for leading a team of 25 researchers, and establishing test plots. The area where these tests were conducted is now known as the Dr. James R. Watson Research & Development Proving Grounds. By the end of his illustrious career at the Toro Company, Dr. Watson retired not only with the title of Vice President of Agronomy, but also having led the way in turfgrass research for adaptability of species and cultivars, fertilization practices, equipment development, snow mold prevention, and water management research, to name a few focal interests.

Following retirement, Dr. Watson acted as a consultant to both the Toro Company and the turfgrass industry as a whole. He was the recipient of numerous industry awards, including the United States Golf Association's Green Section Award in 1976, the first recipient of the Crop Society of America's Fred V. Grau Turfgrass Science Award in 1987, the Old Tom Morris Award from GCSAA in 1995, the USGA Green Section's Piper and Oakley Award in 1998, and the USGA's Ike Grainger Award in 2009.

Those throughout the industry agree that he was a man with vision and knowledge, revered as a pioneer in turfgrass science, and that turfgrass science has been made considerably better thanks to his

extensive efforts over the years. A dedicated turfgrass researcher, Dr. Watson passed away on October 1st, 2013 at the age of 92.

For a list of materials by or about Dr. James R. Watson as currently indexed within the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) database, see: <http://www.lib.msu.edu/cgi-bin/flinkss.pl?srch=docwatson1013>

The Watson materials join the O. J. Noer Memorial Turfgrass Collection at Michigan State University. The Noer Collection and the James B Beard Turfgrass Library Collection form the strongest single public collection of turfgrass related content in the world. Records for items within the Watson materials have already started to appear within the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) database, and originals are available for consulting use within the Turfgrass Information Center at MSU.

Special thanks are due to the Watson family for making this donation, and to the Toro Company for facilitating this transfer.

About the Turfgrass Information Center

The Turfgrass Information Center is a specialized unit at the Michigan State University Libraries, comprised of the O.J. Noer Memorial Turfgrass Collection and the James B Beard Turfgrass Library Collection, and contains the most comprehensive publicly available collection of turfgrass educational materials in the world. The Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) database is produced by the Turfgrass Information Center. Using the Collections as a foundation, TGIF is designed to identify and point to turf research and management resources, online and offline, along with full-text versions of materials when copyright permissions can be obtained. For further information about the Collections, the TGIF database, or the associated digital archives, see the Center's website at: <https://tic.msu.edu/>.

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