

AWARD OF MERIT

ALAN JONES: It is a great honor and privilege to present to you the recipient of the 1995 Eastern Region Award of Merit. This is the highest award the Eastern Region can bestow on a member. Recipients must have over 10 years of active membership, as well as providing outstanding contributions to plant propagation within the nursery industry.

This year's award winner has a lengthy and impressive background.

His academic life started with a bachelors in pomology from Penn State, then a masters in vegetable breeding from Ohio State, and if that was not enough he went on to get his Ph.D. in genetics from the University of Wisconsin.

With this background I suppose it was inevitable that he would end up in plant breeding.

In 1960 he took up the call and the challenge to become head of the holly breeding program at Rutgers University in New Jersey, but soon found that man cannot live by *Ilex* alone, so he added a *Pyracantha* breeding program.

In the 35 years he has been at Rutgers he has introduced 20 *Ilex* selections, two *Cornus florida* selections, four *Pyracantha* cultivars, and six cultivars of his famous *Cornus kousa* × *C. florida* crosses—known as the "Stellar Series". In his spare time, he teaches plant propagation at Rutgers University.

This gentleman is probably best known for his breeding work with dogwoods, but one of his major contributions to plant propagation was the research, development, and introduction of a commercially acceptable method for rooting stem cuttings of *Acer rubrum* cultivars. This method has now totally replaced the need to bud red maples and, therefore, eliminates grafting incompatibility problems with this species.

Our recipient has given numerous papers to this organization as well as many other horticultural organizations in this country and is known as someone who should be given the amount of time specified to present his paper, as he has been known to become very irritable and impatient when the time allowed for presentation of his paper gets cut short. Despite this one very minor shortcoming, this gentleman has provided the industry with a wonderful range of new and interesting plants for which we are all very grateful.

It is my pleasure to announce that the 1995 Award of Merit is presented to Dr. Elwin Orton of Rutgers University.

INTERNATIONAL AWARD OF HONOR FOR 1995

PETER ORUM: It is my pleasure as the director to the International Board from the Eastern Region to announce the recipient of the International Award of Honor for 1995 because our recipient is a member of the Eastern Region.

First let me give you a little background on the award. It was established by the International Board to recognize outstanding contributions at the international level in our Society. The Award recognizes exceptional and distinguished service to I.P.P.S. and outstanding accomplishments in the field of plant propagation.

Only a small number of individuals have received this award and include individuals, such as Bruce Briggs, and our own Jim Wells, Ralph Shugert, and Bill Snyder.

The International Board gathered in Harrogate, England this August and an-

nounced the recipient for 1995 at that meeting. Our honoree this year is well known to many of us in the Eastern Region. He has been a member for 36 years and we recognize him from his many contributions in the form of papers to our meetings. He is widely known for his research in the fields of micropropagation and juvenility. Although he has never served the Eastern Region as an officer, we can't thank him enough for he was the person who assembled our 30 year index for Volumes 1 to 30. Anyone who has ever tried to locate propagation information in our Proceedings is well aware of the benefits of the index.

It is my pleasure to announce the 1995 recipient of the International Award of Honor, Dr. Richard Zimmerman. As part of the award, Volume 45 of the I.P.P.S. Combined Proceedings will be dedicated to Dr. Zimmerman.

Thank you Dr. Zimmerman for all you have done.

Putting Roots on Shrub Roses

Mike Hoffman

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Bailey Nurseries propagation facility, (Nord Farm), has been in production for about 14 years. At present, we have 13 acres under plastic for the propagation of woody, perennial, and annual plants. Each house is filled and emptied at least two times per year.

Most propagation is carried out in ground-level sandbeds. The sand which is mined on the premises is 20 to 24 in. deep and drainage tile is used to enhance drainage. The sandbeds are leveled, watered, and treated with vapam before cutting propagation. Cuttings can be stuck about 2 weeks after the vapam treatment.

Rose cuttings are taken from our container production beds or flown in from Arizona where we field grow shrub roses on contract. From our container production, we try to get as long a cutting as possible, (usually about 5 in.), and trim off the flower heads and strip the bottom leaves. This yields a fairly skinny cutting about 4 in. long. We allow 3 to 4 weeks between cutting harvests from the containerized roses.

Prepared cuttings are placed in poly boxes, moistened, and stored in a 45F cooler with an air-over-water humidity system. We pre-dip the roses in 1000 ppm K salt of IBA—this is a 2-sec quickdip, and then they are put back into the cooler until planting. Cuttings are kept in the cooler a maximum of 6 days before sticking in the propagation house.

The cuttings from Arizona come from field-grown roses. In the Arizona environment the roses grow very rapidly and we are able to take a 7- to 8-in. cutting. After trimming off the top 3 in., we are left with a thicker-stemmed 4- to 5-in. cutting to root. Cuttings from the field-grown plants are cooled, wrapped in moist newspaper, placed in poly bags, boxed with dry newspaper surrounding the bag as insulation, and then flown out in the early morning, same-day air. When we receive these cuttings, we cool them down, pre-dip them in hormone, and then stick the cuttings in the greenhouse. These cuttings produce a stronger rooted liner and root at a little higher percent. The use of cuttings from Arizona allows us to grow our container plants larger since we are not cutting them back as often to obtain the cutting numbers we need.