



WEEK of SEPTEMBER 5, 1993

STATION NOTES

Horticultural Reviews Dedicated to Jim Cummins

We extend our congratulations to Dr. James N. Cummins, professor emeritus of horticulture, Horticultural Sciences, on the most recent volume of *Horticultural Reviews* being dedicated to him. The documentation for this outstanding achievement was prepared by Drs. Susan Brown, Horticultural Sciences; Herb Aldwinckle, Plant Pathology; and Bob Lamb, Horticultural Sciences.

Jim officially retired from the Station this year, but he continues to maintain, in cooperation with Herb Aldwinckle, an active research program on rootstock development for tree fruits. The overall objective of this program is "to produce a repertoire of rootstocks having improved qualities of nursery and orchard performance and much improved adaptability to the edaphic, climatic, and biotic environments typical of New York orchards." A greater proportion of effort has been placed on developing new rootstocks for apples, but work has also been done on rootstocks for cherries, pears, plums, and peaches. With apples, the scientists' goal was to produce apple clones to replace Malling 9, M.26, M.7, MM.106, and MM.111.

To date, two rootstocks have been released from nearly 500,000 rootstocks that have been studied. The first release was *Novole*, which is a root- and trunkstock resistant to meadow voles, fire blight, and crown rot. It was released in 1984. Another rootstock, CG65, was released in 1991. When compared to Malling 9, it is slightly more dwarfing, much better anchored, induces earlier and heavier production, and is very resistant to fire blight and tolerant of *Phytophthora* and powdery mildew. A continuing series of CG rootstocks are expected to be released in the near future.

Jim was awarded his bachelor of science degree in horticulture from the University of Illinois, his master's in science education at Southern Illinois University, a master's in botany at the University of Wisconsin, and a doctorate in botany from Southern Illinois University. He came to Geneva as an assistant professor in 1962, was promoted to associate professor in 1973, and to full professor in 1982. He has had sabbatical leaves at Justin-Liebig Universitat, Giessen, West Germany as a Fulbright Senior Scientist and at the Granite Belt Horticultural Research Station in Applethorpe, Queensland, Australia. He has served as a consultant to programs in Chile, Brazil, and Colombia. He has been or is a member of the IR-2 Technical Committee, Apple Crop Advisory Committee, National Plant Germplasm Committee, Rootstock Research Foundation, and NE-14 and NC-140 technical committees. He has also been active in the International Dwarf Fruit Tree Association.

Summarizing Jim's contributions to the rootstock program around the world can best be done by quoting the following two paragraphs from the article that appeared on him in *Horticultural Reviews*:



"Dr. Cummins has had a strong traditional program in rootstock breeding, but he openly embraces the prospects that genetic engineering offers for the future. He has lectured on the use of biotechnology in genetically improving perennial crops and is a strong proponent of a dual approach to rootstock development. He is a cooperater in the work being done by Herb Aldwinckle on transforming M.26 for fire blight resistance.

"The rootstock breeding program at Geneva has been very much a family affair. Jim's wife, Cindy, has assisted in the data collection, traveled to test sites, and is often seen in the photographs of promising elite selections. The Cummins' four sons and daughter also 'volunteered' at an early age to assist in the many activities required in rootstock breeding."

We salute Jim Cummins and family for their outstanding achievements.

Forklift Safety Training to Be Offered

As part of the acquisition process for a new forklift in the Raw Products Facility, we are contracting for a forklift safety training program to be offered on campus. Those who complete the 2-1/2 hour course will be OSHA certified and will be allowed to use the RPF forklift. Those who don't take the course will be required to find a certified driver to operate the forklift for them. Bob Kime will maintain the list of certified drivers. Cost to departments for the course will be \$10-15 per driver depending upon how many actually sign up. Contact Bob Kime x269 to register for the course.



CALENDAR of EVENTS

Monday, September 6

Labor Day
Station Closed

Wednesday, September 8, 12:10 pm

Sawdust Cafe
Aerobics/Fitness class for all employees

Thursday, September 9, 11:30 am

Sawdust Cafe
GEC Meeting

Friday, September 10, 12:10 pm

Sawdust Cafe
Aerobics/Fitness class for all employees

POLICIES, PROCEDURES, and PEOPLE

• Update on Bob Nellis

Bob is back at the rehabilitation facility in Cortland. His address is:

Highgate of Cortland
2 South, Room 208
P.O. Box 5510
28 Kellogg Rd.
Cortland, New York 13045

Drop him a card and remember him
in your prayers.

CLASSIFIED

WANTED: Furnished room to rent until December, 1993. Call Hector at x334.

HATHA YOGA CLASSES: Taught by Anna Gilman. Reduce stress and improve flexibility and strength. Monday's 5:30-6:45 pm at Trinity Church, 520 S. Main Street, beginning September 20 for six weeks. Class size limited to 15. Cost \$24. Call 789-7223 to register.

FORRENT: Three-bedroom ranch house in the Country. Quiet, private, short drive to Geneva. \$550/month plus electric and gas. Security, references. 789-7810.

FOR SALE: Gravely 408 Riding Lawn Tractor. 8 HP Kohler engine, 38 inch mower deck. Excellent condition. \$350 or best offer. 315-789-8112 after 5.