



FOR RELEASSE: IMMEDIATE

STATION SCIENTISTS RECEIVE NATIONAL HONORS

Geneva, NY—Three members of the department of plant pathology at Cornell University's New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, were honored with awards at the recent meeting of the American Phytopathological Society (the national professional society of scientists woking on plant diseases) in Portland, Oregon.

Dr. Herb Aldwinckle was elected to be a Fellow of the Society. Election of a fellow is a reflection of the high esteem in which a member is held by his colleagues. The award is given in recognition of outstanding contributions in extension, research, teaching, and other activities in the science of plant pathology. Aldwinckle was educated in England, and after doing postdoctoral research, joined the Geneva Station in 1970. He was promoted to full professor in 1984. His research concentrates on developing new varieties of apples and apple rootstocks that are resistant to diseases, and is done in close cooperation with breeders in the horticultural sciences department. Out of this program have come the Liberty and Freedom apples and the Geneva 65 apple rootstock. Aldwinckle's program now includes genetic engineering, and has developed a transformed rootstock, M.26, with increased resistance to fire blight. Aldwinckle has served as chairman of the department of plant pathology since 1982.

Dr. Helene Dillard received the Extension Award for excellence in extension plant pathology. Helene was born in San Francisco and received her bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees from the University of California at Berkeley and Davis. She has been on the faculty at Geneva since 1984, and was promoted to associate professor in 1990. Her responsibilities are 50 per cent extension and 50 per cent research with emphasis on the biology, ecology, and control of diseases of vegetables caused by fungi and bacteria. In 1991, she received a special citation from the New York Association of County Agricultural Agents for "her distinguished performance and outstanding contribution to the well-being of the people and agriculture of New York State."

Dr. Wayne Wilcox was presented the Ciba-Geigy Award, which is given to individual plant pathologists who have made significant contributions to the advancement of knowledge of plant diseases and their control. Wilcox is a native of California, where he completed all of his education. After obtaining a doctorate degree at the University of California, Davis, and before coming to Geneva in 1984, he served two years as an assistant extension professor at the University of Kentucky. His responsibilities at Geneva are 70 per cent extension and 30 per cent research on biology and control of diseases of

apples, cherries, peaches, strawberries, and raspberries. He was promoted to associate professor in 1990.

Also receiving an award at the Portland meeting was Dr. Jerry Uyemoto , a former member of the Geneva department of plant pathology (1968-1977), now a research plant pathologist with the United States Dept. of Agriculture at Davis, California. He received the Hutchins award for his work on virus diseases of fruit crops. This is the third year in a row that a present or former member of the Geneva department has won this award for research on fruit disease.

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