

# NEWS



New York State Agricultural Experiment Station  
Cornell University, Geneva, NY 14456-0462

**FOR RELEASE: Immediately**

## **NEW HEAD APPOINTED OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES UNIT**

Geneva, NY—Dr. James R. McFerson has been appointed Research Leader of the Plant Genetic Resources Unit (PGRU) at Cornell University's New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva. The PGRU is part of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service.

Dr. McFerson was hired as Geneticist/Curator at the PGRU in 1988 and served as Acting Research Leader from July 1991-July 1992. He served in this capacity again from July 1993 until his new appointment in September 1993.

Dr. McFerson received his master's degree in horticulture in 1976 at Texas A&M University and his doctorate degree in plant breeding and plant genetics in 1983 from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Before coming to Geneva he was a plant breeder at Arco Seed Company from 1983-1985 and a senior plant breeder at Petoseed Company from 1985-1988. His areas of specialization include conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources, vegetable breeding and genetics, and crop evolution and systematics.

The Plant Genetic Resources Unit is part of the National Plant Germplasm System. It is responsible for maintaining, characterizing, and distributing a range of economically important plants, including apple, grape, tomato, onion, garlic, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, clover, and trefoil, among others. The unit cooperates extensively with research programs nationally and internationally.

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