

## 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-