



Ohio State HCS News

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Dr. Richard Pratt Promoted to Professor



OSU plant breeding genetics researcher Dr. Rich Pratt was promoted to Professor in Horticulture & Crop Science.

Barbara Snyder, Provost at The Ohio State University, has announced that Plant Breeding Genetics researcher **Dr. Richard Pratt** has been promoted to Professor in the Horticulture & Crop Science Department effective October 1, 2006.

Based on the Wooster campus of the university's [Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center](#) (OARDC), Dr. Pratt's research focuses on plant breeding genetics with a primary emphasis on corn breeding methodologies and crop improvement. [Dr. Pratt's](#) breeding work is viewed as highly relevant in the U.S. and internationally. His program has contributed to a better understanding of host plant resistance to several key diseases of corn in the U.S., Sub-Saharan Africa and other countries. The quality of his maize germplasm research is validated by the numerous requests (domestic and international) from a variety of industry groups and organizations.



Dr. Rich Pratt collects pollen from a male parent in his breeding nursery near Wooster Campus.

The quality and input of Dr. Pratt's research program has been noteworthy and unique. The quality of this work is well documented by the quality of the journals in which he publishes (Crop Science, Theoretical and Applied Genetics, and Genome). He is not hesitant to "tackle" tough problems and conduct research under often trying circumstances as noted by one of his external reviewers. Much of his valuable work has been conducted by graduate students, which is natural due to Dr. Pratt's reputation as being the quintessential mentor to young scientists in his research area.

During his almost 20 years at OARDC, Pratt has participated in different research endeavors in various African countries, including work with the U.S. Agency for International Development's Integrated Pest Management Collaborative Research Support Program (IPM-CRSP) in Uganda; has trained African graduate students at his Wooster lab; and has served on the editorial board of the African Crop Science Journal, helping young scientists improve their research and writing skills. His dedicated efforts earned him the 2005 African Crop Science Society Award for his contributions to scientific development in Africa. He will also be receiving the 2006 International Service to Crop Science Award at the Tri-Societies Annual Meeting in November.



Dr. Richard Pratt was awarded the 2005 African Crop Science Society (ACCS) Award for his contributions to scientific development in Africa.

In addition to teaching courses in plant breeding, scientific writing, and international agriculture, Dr. Pratt has invested significant time and effort into the development and revision of the Horticulture & Crop Science department undergraduate and graduate curriculum.

Dr. Pratt has authored or co-authored 37 peer-reviewed journal articles, 6 conference proceedings papers, 35 technical reports, 47 abstracts, 4 extension bulletins, 3 book chapters, and one annual review article. He has also released 7 maize inbreds and 10 synthetic populations.

He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Arizona and received his Ph.D. from the Purdue University in 1985 and joined the former Agronomy Department at The Ohio State University as an Assistant Professor in August 1987.

Story by [Victor van Buchem](#), Liz Kinney and Mauricio Espinoza. Photos by Ken Chamberlain. Award photo by James Legg. Web publishing by Victor van Buchem.

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