



Ohio State HCS News

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Pratt Earns International Service Award



CSSA President Steve Fales presents Rich Pratt with the 2006 International Service in Crop Science Award.

Ohio State Plant Breeding Genetics researcher **Dr. Richard Pratt** received the [Crop Science Society of America \(CSSA\)](#) 2006 International Service Award presented at the CSSA Annual Meeting held in conjunction with the American Society of Agronomy (ASA) and Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) on Nov. 12-16 in Indianapolis, IN.

A professor and maize breeder in the Department of Horticulture and Crop Science at The Ohio State University, Pratt is based on the Wooster campus of the university's Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC). The International Service in Crop Science Award recognizes creativity and innovation in bringing about specific changes in practices, products, and/or programs in the crops area at the international level. A longtime international researcher with an interest in African crops, the award honors Pratt's research on the advancement of host resistance strategies that minimize the vulnerability of sub-Saharan maize crops to infection by foliar pathogens.



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

During his 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. A leader in the development of the African Crop Science Society, Pratt has worked collaboratively with scientists from all over the world to

strengthen international agriculture. As a testimonial to Pratt's contributions to fighting diseases that devastate corn, and his dedication to helping farmers in sub-Saharan Africa, he received the [2005 African Crop Science Society Award](#).



Gamma Sigma Delta recognized Rich Pratt with the 2006 International Award of Merit for his research on African maize crops.

Dr. Pratt served as an associate editor of Crop Science for six years and he is a member of the editorial board of the African Crop Science Journal. Dr. Pratt's research focuses on plant breeding genetics with a primary emphasis on corn breeding methodologies and crop improvement. The quality of his maize germplasm research is validated by the numerous requests (domestic and international) from a variety of industry groups and organizations.

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. 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 and web publishing by [Victor van Buchem](#). Photos courtesy Rich Pratt.
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