

# *In Memoriam: Dr. J. Fielding Reed*

## *December 15, 1912 - June 8, 1999*

**D**r. J. Fielding Reed, President Emeritus, Potash & Phosphate Institute, died on June 8, 1999 in St. Mary's Hospital in Athens, Georgia. He was 86 years old at the time of his death.

Dr. Reed was born December 15, 1912 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He attended Louisiana State University (LSU), where he received a B.S. degree in chemical engineering in 1933, an M.S. degree in biochemistry in 1934, and Ph.D. degree in biochemistry in 1937. During 1939-40, Dr. Reed held a Rockefeller Foundation post-doctorate fellowship at Cornell University, where he also earned a Ph.D. degree in soil science. After returning to LSU, he served as Assistant Agronomist and Professor of Soils until 1942.

As Agronomist with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and North Carolina State University (NCSU), he helped to pioneer soil testing as it related to soil fertility studies. His early methods of taking soil samples, standardizing and calibrating tests, and using assembly line methods to process large numbers of soil tests were innovative. His research in the field of soil chemistry included studies of the importance of colloid considerations and the effect of soil cation exchange properties on nutrient uptake and composition of plants. Dr. Reed served as Director of the Soil Testing Division of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and was also Professor of Agronomy at NCSU.

In 1949, Dr. Reed joined the staff of the

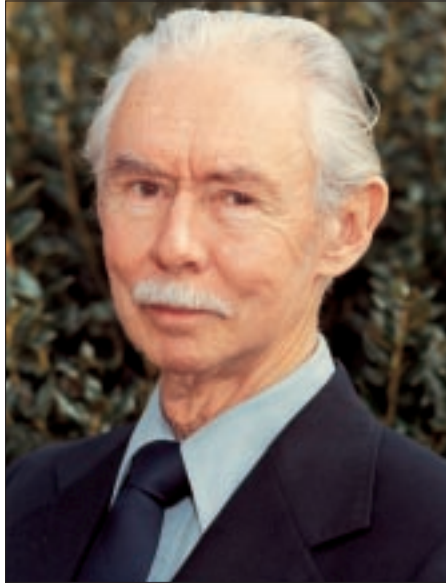
American Potash Institute...now known as the Potash & Phosphate Institute (PPI)...as Director, Southern Territory. In January of 1963, he was named Executive Vice President. He was later elected President of the Institute, serving from January of 1964 until April of 1975.

During his 25-plus years with the Institute, Dr. Reed traveled hundreds of thousands of miles across North America, Europe, Scandinavia, India, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, Australia, and Latin America, representing the Institute and its programs.

Under Dr. Reed's leadership, the headquarters location of the Institute was moved from Washington, D.C., to Atlanta, Georgia.

Agronomic research and education programs of the organization flourished. During his presidency, Institute scientists cooperated with official agriculture on hundreds of research projects and field demonstrations. They helped create and distribute more than 10 million pieces of agronomic literature and visual aids. They spoke by invitation to an estimated million specialists and farmers at field days, university seminars, and other professional meetings. And, North American farmers nearly doubled their use of potash.

Internationally known as a man of keen intelligence and wit, Dr. Reed was recognized with awards and honors too numerous to mention. He was elected Fellow of ASA, SSSA and CSSA and was the recipient of the Agronomic Service Award from ASA. He served as President, Southern Section, ASA, and as





Vice President of the American Association for Advancement of Science (AAAS). He was elected Fellow, American Institute of Chemists. He was also the only industry leader ever elected President of the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists.

Following his retirement as President of the Institute, Dr. Reed moved to Athens, Georgia, and taught at the University of Georgia, emphasizing the “diagnostic approach” to crop nutrient management. His association with the university continued for many years. He always enjoyed the association with students and took pride in the achievements of many he advised.

Dr. Reed was also active with the Georgia Plant Food Educational Society (GPFES), serving as President and as Executive Secretary-Treasurer. Three agronomy scholarships offered by GPFES are named in his honor, two at the Athens campus and one at Abraham Baldwin College, Tifton. Fellowships awarded by PPI each year to deserving graduate students are also identified as the “J. Fielding Reed PPI Fellowships.” In 1998, the J. Fielding Reed endowed scholarship was established, sponsored by the Agronomic Science Foundation and supported by PPI, the Foundation for Agronomic Research, and others.

Dr. Reed is survived by his wife, Olivia, two daughters, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. **EC**

