

Winners of Robert E. Wagner Award for 2005

Two outstanding scientists in agronomy and horticulture have been selected to receive the 2004-2005 Robert E. Wagner Award by PPI. The award encourages worldwide candidate nominations and has two categories... Senior Scientist and Young Scientist, under the age of 45. The recipient in each category receives \$5,000 along with the award plaque.

Dr. Dwayne G. Westfall, Professor, Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, Colorado State University, was named winner of the Senior Scientist Award. **Dr. Eric H. Simonne**, Horticultural Sciences Department, University of Florida, receives the Young Scientist Award.

The Robert E. Wagner Award recognizes distinguished contributions to advanced crop yields through maximum yield research (MYR) and maximum economic yield (MEY) management. The award honors Dr. Wagner, President (retired) of PPI, for his many achievements and in recognition of his development of the MEY concept...for profitable, efficient agriculture.

Dr. Westfall is a well-known leader in research and education focused on efficient plant nutrient management. Throughout his career of more than 30 years, he has emphasized the goal of MEY for various production environments. His work in proper management and fertilization of no-till intensive dryland cropping systems increased annualized grain production by 75% and boosted net return by up to 40%.

Recently, Dr. Westfall has helped build an interdisciplinary, interagency agriculture team that is comprised of 12 scientists and extension specialists, including soil fertility, entomology, weed science, plant pathology, irrigation, remote sensing,



Dr. D.G. Westfall



Dr. E.H. Simonne

spatial statistics, economics, and extension. He is widely known as a highly productive scientist who has successfully translated his research findings into farmer-level application. Among other awards and honors, Dr. Westfall is a Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy (ASA) and Soil Science Society of America. He received the Agronomic Achievement Award from ASA in 1987. He is author or co-author of more than 430 publications and abstracts. Dr. Westfall completed his Ph.D. in Soil Science at Washington State University in 1968.

Dr. Simonne leads a research/extension program in the Horticultural Sciences Department at the University of

Florida, with focus on the integration of mineral nutrition with irrigation. The goal is to maintain the competitiveness of the \$1.8 billion Florida vegetable industry while preserving natural resources, especially water. He has been actively involved in drafting and modifying the best management practices (BMP) manual for vegetables grown in Florida. Dr. Simonne's extension work has been unique in developing and conducting dye tests to help growers visualize how their irrigation schedules affect movement of soluble nutrients in the soil profile. Use of soil moisture measuring devices by growers has reduced irrigation amounts by 15 to 50%, and the on-farm dye demonstrations are credited with reducing nutrient leaching. Dr. Simonne is active in the American Society for Horticultural Science, and is involved in the review and publication process of two international journals that focus on plant nutrition. He earned his Ph.D. degree in Horticulture at the University of Georgia in 1993. **BC**