

CIBA-Geigy Award

Sponsored by the CIBA-Geigy Corporation, this award is given to individual plant pathologists who have made significant recent contributions to the advancement of knowledge of plant diseases or their control. The award consists of a trophy and an expense-paid trip to Basel, Switzerland.

Randall C. Rowe



Randall C. Rowe received his B.S. degree in botany from Michigan State University in 1967 and his Ph.D. degree from Oregon State University in 1972, studying the epidemiology of *Cercospora* foot rot of wheat. After two years of postdoctoral work at North Carolina State University, he joined the faculty of the Ohio State University Department of Plant Pathology at Wooster as assistant professor. He was promoted to associate professor in 1979 and professor in 1984.

Dr. Rowe has made significant contributions to the understanding and control of soilborne diseases of vegetable crops. His investigations with *Fusarium* crown and root rot, a new disease of greenhouse tomatoes, led to the realization that airborne microconidia of the pathogen escaped soil steaming and rapidly recolonized steam-disinfested soil. He then found that a captafol fungicide drench onto warm, freshly steamed soil prevented recolonization by airborne propagules. This unique use of a

fungicide, which selectively directs recolonization of soil following steaming, was adopted commercially throughout Ohio and adjoining states. This procedure eliminated the disease as a serious threat until a resistant cultivar was developed. He has worked with plant pathologists in Florida, Canada, and Japan to further the understanding of this disease and its relationship to common *Fusarium* wilt of tomato.

More recently, Dr. Rowe and his co-worker, Dr. R. M. Riedel, and their students, have made major advances in the understanding of early dying disease of potato. After they developed an extensive field microplot technique, it was shown that the disease results from a synergistic interaction between *Verticillium dahliae* and the root-lesion nematode, *Pratylenchus*. They documented that yields decline with combined population levels of both pathogens that individually do not cause damage. Furthermore, with three monoxenically cultured species of *Pratylenchus*, it was conclusively demonstrated that the synergism is species dependent.

Dr. Rowe is active on APS committees and is a director of the pathology section of the Potato Association of America. He is vegetable section editor of *Fungicide and Nematicide Tests*, publishes *Fungicide and Nematicide Updates* regularly in *PLANT DISEASE*, and currently teaches a course on vegetable diseases and their control.

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