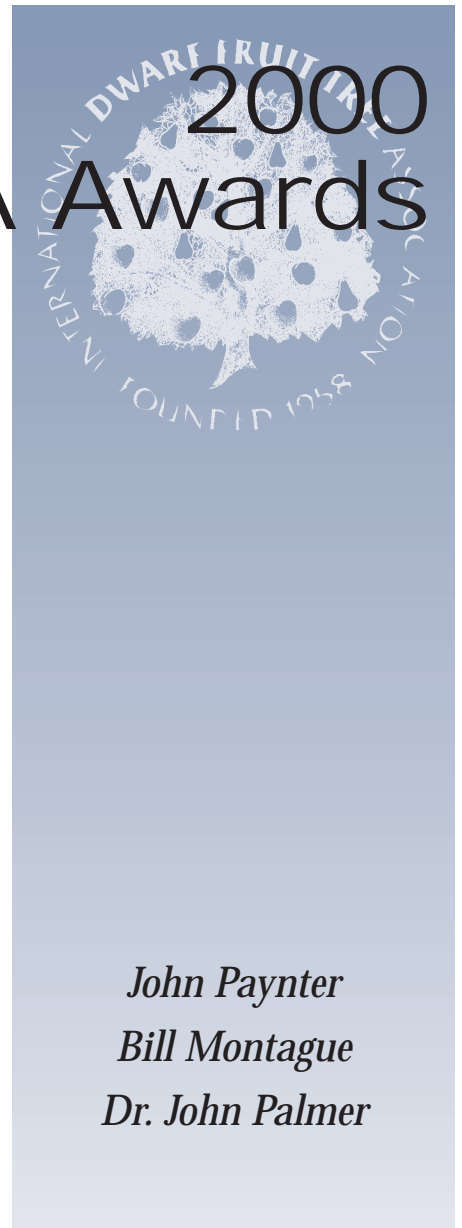


# IDFTA Awards



For 2000 the International Dwarf Fruit Tree Association awarded an Outstanding Researcher award and two Outstanding Grower awards. The International Dwarf Fruit Tree Outstanding Grower Award goes to **John Paynter**, a gentleman who is extremely well known in New Zealand horticulture. He is a fourth generation fruit grower, two of those generations from the South Island in Nelson and two generations from the North Island in Hawke's Bay. He holds a diploma from Murray University, a National Diploma of Horticulture from the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture. He returned from school in 1963 to join the family partnership on a 5 ha (2 acres) mixed orchard on St. Georges Road in Hastings. Since then, he has developed over 500 ha (200 acres) of orchards in the Hawke's Bay region.

He is the founding chairman of the New Zealand Fruit Industry Plant Improvement Agency (FIPIA) which is involved in an extensive network of worldwide contacts, importing and distributing cultivars to licensed propagators. He has been a member of the New Zealand Apple and Pear Marketing Board for nearly 18 years. He has served on the New Zealand Kiwi Authority and he was appointed chairman of the kiwi industry's new marketing company, Zespri NZ, Ltd.

John Paynter is a joint founder and owner of Yummy Nectarines, Ltd. This company initiated fruit labeling in New Zealand and has operated successfully for over 25 years. The company was renamed Yummy Fruit Company Ltd. in 1994 and is now marketing nationwide (52 weeks of the year) a wide range of products including nectarines, peaches, plums, apricots, apples, pears and kiwifruit. He changed his family business into the Johnny Appleseed Group of Companies, incorporating Johnny Appleseed Fruit Packers. His innovations include importing the first wind machine into New Zealand for frost protection, as

well as many other pieces of equipment. In 1993, he received the New Zealand Fruit-growers Federation Bledisloe Cup for outstanding contributions to the fruit industry of New Zealand.

He serves the academic community as trustee of the Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust and as a trustee of the Massey University Agricultural Research Foundation. He also serves as a director of the New Zealand Post Ltd., director of the Port of Napier Ltd., director of the Horticulture Crown Research Institute, and many other service organizations too numerous to mention.

It was 25 years ago this month that the IDFTA tree fruit study tour (under the direction of Dr. Robert Carlson and Dr. Don McKenzie) visited Yummy Nectarines Ltd. I do not believe there was any grower on that tour who believed what he saw during that visit. Many times since then this recipient has visited the United States and shared with us the knowledge he has gained during his many years producing fruit. At this time, it gives me great pleasure to present this award to Mr. John Paynter.

The second recipient of the International Dwarf Fruit Tree Outstanding 2000 Grower Award is an Australian native, **Bill Montague**. He was born in Australia's state of Victoria in 1926. He started his first vegetable and fruit business with two stalls at Victoria Market in 1948. In two years, from this humble beginning, he planted his first orchard at Narre Warren North, near Melbourne. In the early years, he supplied vegetables and fruit to the hospitals in the Melbourne area. Through the 1950s, he continued to plant more orchards and increased his holdings in apples. As his sons began to join his business, he set up relationships with large supermarkets such as Safeway in Australia.

By 1972, W. F. Montague Pty. Ltd. included his three sons and managed a large apple operation with holdings in three

states of Australia. Continuing through the 1980s with innovative techniques in apple production, he introduced nitrogen flushing of cold storage facilities, natural waxing of fruit and also introduced labeled fruit. Continuing to build new packing and cold storage operations, his company expanded and became both national and international in the production and sales of fruit.

Today the Montague Group of Companies has a permanent workforce of nearly 250, plus 1000 seasonal workers. It has over 1000 acres of orchards, mainly in apples, in a dozen locations in the states of Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania. With a production of 400,000 plus cases per year in apples, it is now Australia's number one apple producer and, no matter where you look in Australia, you can see the distinctive Montague red apple logo.

The company's cold storage division has close to 10 million cubic feet of space available with nearly 750,000 cubic feet in

*John Paynter*

*Bill Montague*

*Dr. John Palmer*

controlled atmosphere, which stores apples year-round for major chains in Australia such as Safeway, Woolworth's and Coles/Myer.

Bill Montague and his wife Elaine travel extensively to fruit districts around the world and have served as gracious hosts and freely shared their experience with visitors from around the world.

The 2000 Outstanding Researcher Award goes to **Dr. John Palmer**, tree fruit physiologist at Nelson Research Centre, Motueka, New Zealand. Dr. Palmer has been a researcher for the past 31 years, beginning in 1968 as a pomologist at the East Malling Research Station in the United Kingdom. He emigrated to New Zealand in 1991 and was employed as a scientist with DSIR Fruit and Trees at the Riwaka Research Centre. Since 1992 he has conducted tree fruit research for HortResearch at the Nelson Research Centre.

Dr. Palmer received a Bachelor of Science degree at Nottingham University, a Master of Science degree at Ahmadu Bello in Nigeria, and a Ph.D. in 1976 from Nottingham University. During his career he

has received numerous awards, including the Stark Award of the American Society of Horticultural Science (shared with Dr. D. C. Ferree).

Dr. Palmer is currently a crop physiologist specializing in plant/environment interactions, apple and pear (pipfruit) tree management and training systems, light interception and distribution in fruit crops, carbon dioxide assimilation and dry matter production and factors influencing fruit yield and quality.

At East Malling Research Station, he worked closely with Dr. John Jackson and they developed some of the first canopy light utilization models for apple orchard systems. Based on their collaborative research, they published one of the classic research papers in pomology, "Effects of shade on the growth and cropping of apple trees." The three-part paper included the multi-year effects of shade on growth, yield and fruit quality.

He conducted a research program to develop high density planting systems using M.9 and M.27 rootstocks for apple and Quince C for European pears. A major emphasis of his work was to develop a

better understanding of the control of photosynthesis and carbon acquisition in apple trees and the regulation of growth partitioning leading to enhanced productivity and fruit quality.

After moving to New Zealand in 1991, his expertise was quickly applied to the needs of the New Zealand pipfruit industry. He joined the research effort in rootstocks and orchard systems with particular focus on the performance of M.9 in New Zealand conditions and the development of numerous production methods for interstem trees. Interstem orchard performance was also investigated. He was influential in efforts to improve the quality of fruit trees from nurseries for more rapid orchard establishment. He continued his research in fundamental aspects of crop physiology associated with orchard system and apple tree productivity and fruit quality. He leads research teams in some of these aspects today and collaborates widely across a substantial research effort in the whole plant physiology of fruit crops. More recent specific initiatives include basic research in the problem of fruit russet and sunburn.