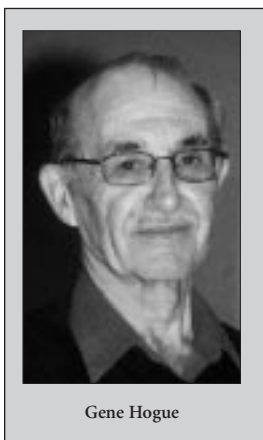


# IDFTA Awards— 2002



## **DR. EUGENE J. HOGUE— OUTSTANDING RESEARCHER AWARD**

Dr. Gene Hogue is a native of Manitoba, Canada. He obtained his B.A. (Latin philosophy), B.Sc. and M.Sc. from the University of Manitoba, and his Ph.D. in horticulture from Purdue University in Indiana.



Gene Hogue

He has been a research scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada from 1966 to the present. The first 11 years were spent in Quebec and he has been at Pacific Agri-Food Research Center, Summerland,

British Columbia, since 1977. His field of research has been weed control in orchards and vineyards and orchard floor vegetation management.

Throughout his time at Summerland, Dr. Hogue has been the ultimate source of information on weeds and weed control for growers in the region. That degree in Latin philosophy must have been useful when dealing with plant names. He has worked with new herbicides as they have been developed, and the fact that many have become available for grower use has been due to his efforts with the regulatory agencies.

Recently Dr. Hogue has been doing outstanding work on weed control using non-chemical means, namely mulches of various types. In fact, the use of these mulches has beneficial effects on tree health as well as weed control. This work is most timely with the current emphasis on reduced use of pesticides.

Dr. Hogue is not only an outstanding research scientist, he is also a grower-friendly one. He has always been available for field days and grower seminars, spreading his knowledge throughout the grower community in B.C. and also farther afield.

## **PETER F. WATERMAN— OUTSTANDING EXTENSION AWARD**

Peter Waterman grew up on a cherry and apple orchard near Kelowna, B.C. He graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1968 with a B.Sc. in agriculture. In the summers he worked as a student assistant to one of the government horticulturalists.

After graduation he worked for 6 years for FMC in their Ag-Chemical division, primarily involved in field work developing residue and efficacy data for new pesticides.



Peter Waterman

From 1976 to 1997 he was extension horticulturalist for the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture in Penticton. He became involved in the new technologies which were required for the dwarf plantings coming into vogue. With his methodical mind he worked on and wrote publications covering

Tree Row Volume spraying, home nursery techniques and fertigation. His work in these fields is still closely followed.

In 1989 Peter and his wife Claire purchased a small orchard in Summerland. They immediately started a nursery and began replanting with dwarf trees. Thus began the beneficial feedback loop between extension agent theory and actual practice.

In 1997, following cutbacks in the government extension services, he took a position as fieldman with a B.C. grower co-op. In 2000 he left the co-op, started a consulting service in horticulture and concentrated on management of his now-expanded orchard acreage.

## **JAKE AND JAKE JR. VAN WESTEN— OUTSTANDING GROWERS AWARD**

Jake immigrated to Canada from The Netherlands in 1954 with the intent of owning and managing his own orchard. Prior to coming, and in preparation for his career in Canada, he spent 2 years in a horticulture school in The Netherlands.

He started work in Naramata, not far from Penticton, B.C., in Walter Workman's orchard.



Jake Van Westen, Sr.

He then leased an orchard in Oliver, but after three successive blossom-killing frosts he returned to Naramata as the orchard manager of the Workman orchard.

Jake bought his first orchard in 1973, a 9.5-acre mixed planting. Since then he has expanded his operation to its current size of 47 acres owned and 13 acres leased. This breaks down into 30 acres of cherries, 20 acres of apples and 10 acres of grapes.

In 1986 he was joined in the orchard business by his eldest son, Jake Jr., and more recently by his younger son, Rob. With his wife Anne managing the books, it makes his operation a truly family-run business. Jake Jr. quickly became almost as knowledgeable as his father, and they were soon referred to as "The Jakes." That



Jake Van Westen, Jr.

is why they are each receiving this award.

Jake has been very active in the fruit industry, having served on the Boards of Directors of the Naramata Co-op and the IDFTA. He was awarded the B.C. Fruit Growers' Association Golden Apple award and Compact Apple award. He travels

extensively to different fruit growing areas around the world and is always willing to try ideas and techniques from these areas.

The Jakes' orchards are always on the orchard tour circuit, whether it be the IDFTA tour or a local grower tour. They are always on hand to lead the discussion and occupy the hot seat.

Jake was once asked what he did for a living. He replied that he was just a farmer—but was quick to add, but a happy farmer.