



Waldemar E. Sackston

V. S. Pustovoit Award Winner 1982, Canada.

Wally Sackston, the widely travelled, highly communicative Canadian was the first plant pathologist to win the V. S. Pustovoit Award.

After graduating in Plant Science in Manitoba and gaining a Master of Science Degree in Plant Pathology from McGill University, Wally Sackston began a life-long love affair with sunflowers.

“My first disease surveys in 1948 confirmed the major importance of sunflower rust, and the significance of downy mildew, Sclerotinia rot and a disease we later identified as verticillium wilt. With Eric Putt we succeeded in producing the first rust resistant sunflowers,” Dr. Sackston said.

The genes for resistance identified then remain in use world-wide.

Dr. Sackston’s comprehensive work on sunflower diseases covers 150 written publications and research papers. His scientific ability and his language skills, have enabled him to work successfully in many disciplines and cultures with the aim of improving international agricultural practice.

The drive and energy inherent in Wally Sackston have taken him around the world and his dedicated service to the professional and academic communities have won him acclaim in every country he has visited. Dr. Sackston was fortunate enough to spend a month working with Dr. V. S. Pustovoit at the Oil Crop Institute at Krasnodar in the USSR.

Waldemar E. Sackston is probably best known for his work in the establishment of the National Research Centre for Oilseed Crops at Cordoba for the World Bank and the Government of Spain. In recognition of this work he was nominated by Spain for the post of President of the International Sunflower Association, a position he held from 1978 to 1980. In 1982 Wally Sackston was awarded the V. S. Pustovoit Award for his great contribution to the world sunflower industry.