



2007 Award of Honor

Carol Lovatt
Riverside, CA

Award presented by
Art Bliss

The Avocado Society's Award of Honor is awarded at the discretion of the Board of Directors to one or more persons who have given outstanding meritorious service on behalf of the avocado industry. It reflects long and continuous contributions to the industry and is the highest honor our industry can bestow. If you look in the Yearbook, you will find a list of the pioneers and pillars of this industry who have received the Award of Honor in previous years – people like Jack Shepherd, Hank Brokaw, Art Schroeder, and George Zentmyer.

This year's recipient is no exception, and the Board of Directors would like to recognize Dr. Carol Lovatt as this year's Award of Honor recipient.

Carol Lovatt grew up on the east coast, obtaining her Bachelors of Science degree in biology from the University of Massachusetts. She then attended the University of Rhode Island and received her Masters in Botany and her Ph.D. in Biological Sciences.

In 1980, the east coast's loss was California's gain as she moved west to accept a position at the University of California, Riverside, as a post-doctoral research botanist. Since then, she has progressed through the ranks of academia, becoming an assistant professor, an associate professor, and a full professor of Plant Physiology in the Department of Botany at UC, Riverside. From 2001 through 2005, she was Chair of the Biological Sciences Interdepartmental Program.

Dr. Lovatt holds numerous patents, and the list of her awards begins in 1976 and progresses continually throughout her career, re-

cently receiving the Outstanding Graduate Educator Award, presented by the American Society of Horticultural Science, this past May. A list of her publications literally runs for pages and deals with plant nutrition and fertilization trials, the use of cytokinins and growth regulators, as well as basic physiology of plant growth and flowering. We in the avocado industry are well acquainted with her recent work in nitrogen application, growth regulators, and floral physiology. Her current projects to develop strategies to increase both yield and size of Hass avocados, and a strategy to reduce alternate bearing, have been recommended for funding by this year's Production Research Committee. And, despite our best efforts, we have had to share her with the citrus and pistachio industries, where she has achieved equal acclaim and prestige.

Carol has the ability to get the most mileage possible from any research grant. She utilizes her students to the maximum degree to the benefit of both the research sponsor and her graduate students as she guides them through the research process.

There are nasty rumblings of her retirement within the next several years, and it will be difficult for us to find an individual who is as dedicated to her profession, her students, and the avocado industry as she is.

So it is with great pleasure that the California Avocado Society awards this year's Award of Honor to Dr. Carol Lovatt with our thanks and appreciation for all she has done for the avocado industry.