

ALLAN M. ARMITAGE

Brief Bio

Dr. Armitage is well known as a writer, speaker and researcher throughout the world. He has evaluated garden plants in Montreal, Canada, East Lansing, Michigan and now in Athens, GA and has gained an appreciation of plant development in the North and South. He holds his B.Sc from MacDonald College, Quebec, M.Sc. from University of Guelph, Ontario and his Ph.D. from Michigan State.

Writing

He has written over 400 articles and papers in journals such as *Horticulture Magazine*, *American Nurseryman*, *Greenhouse Grower*, *Grower Talks*, *Plant Physiology* and the journals of *the American Society of Horticultural Science*. He writes a monthly column for *Greenhouse Grower Magazine*, a national trade journal and is a regular contributor to *Fine Gardening Magazine*).

He is the author of 11 books. He is best known for his classroom and reference text, *Herbaceous Garden Perennials, a Treatise of Identification, Culture and Garden Attributes* in its third edition (2008) and *Armitage's Native Plants for North American Gardens* (2006). Other popular consumer/industry books are *Armitage's Garden Perennials* (2000), awarded the 2001 Garden Writers Association Quill & Trowel Award. *Armitage's Manual of Annuals, Biennials and Half Hardy Perennials* (2001) was awarded a 2002 Golden Globe award from the Garden Writers Association of America and the 2001 Book Award from the American Horticultural Society. *Armitage's Garden Annuals* (2004), *Legends in the Garden*, *Who in the World is Nellie Stevens* (2001), co-authored with Linda Copeland and *Specialty Cut Flowers 2nd ed.* (2003) with co-author, Judy Laushman.

Other books include *Allan Armitage on Perennials*, *Ornamental Bedding Plant Production*, *Bedding Plants*, *Prolonging Shelf Performance*, *Seed Propagated Geraniums* (2nd ed).

Photography: He has had well over 3000 photos published, in his own works and elsewhere. His photo site (www.armitageimages.net) serves as a global source for plant photos.

CD-Roms

The *Photographic Encyclopedia of Herbaceous Plants* includes approximately 7200 photos of cultivars and species of annuals, perennials, bulbs, ferns and cut flowers. The second is an interactive CD-ROM, *The Educated Gardener*, which allows gardeners and designers to rapidly search by flower color, height, climatic zone and sun/shade tolerance for thousands of perennial entries, and bring up associated text and photos. He has also completed four additional interactive CDs for the gardener, called *This is Gardening with Allan Armitage*. They consist of full CDs on Perennials, Annuals, Hostas and Allan's Garden. Their objective is to inspire and excite people about plants and gardening.

Teacher and Speaker

As a teacher and speaker, Dr. Armitage has lectured in Canada, United States, Colombia, New Zealand, Australia and Europe and is in constant demand. He has visited research centers and production centers throughout the world and is constantly studying annuals, perennials, cut flowers, and greenhouse crops in various climates. He teaches courses in Greenhouse Production, Greenhouse Crop Management and Herbaceous Plant Identification and Use. He is a highly engaging teacher and his courses fill rapidly. He has received numerous teaching awards. He was seen on *Smart Gardening TV*, in which he appeared every week talking about both commercial and garden issues. More than 83% of the nation were able to view his segments. He also serves as a guest correspondent for the popular *Victory Garden* television series. Both shows appear on public television channels around the country.

Research

His research is multi-faceted. His long interest in New Crops for the garden, greenhouse, and field has taken him to gardens all over the world. His New Crop Program is well known and has resulted in numerous introductions to the Ornamental trade. He has been responsible for introducing many plants to the greenhouse and garden trade such as *Verbena* 'Homestead Purple', Sweet Potato 'Margarita', the Sunlover Series of *Coleus*, *Tibouchina* 'Athens Blue', *Plectranthus* 'Athens Gem', *Rosmarinus* 'Athens Blue Spires' and *Dicentra* 'Athens Yellow'. The national interest in crops he promotes resulted in his plants being promoted nationally under the banner "Athens Select", a national marketing program for plants Armitage selects suggests for heat and humidity tolerance (www.athensselect.com). Presently, he has introduced approximately 20 plants under the "Athens Select" label, including *Cleome* 'Linde Armstrong', *Turnera* 'El Dorado' and *Ruellia* 'Ragin Cajin'. He holds three plant patents for his new crop introductions.

He also conducted investigations on Commercial Cut Flower Production, which led to the development of the Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers, a professional growers' organization which now consists of over 800 members. His work in Bedding Plant and Perennial Plant Production for the greenhouse has led to numerous publications and advances in the floriculture industry. Dr. Armitage is also in charge of the University of Georgia Horticulture Gardens and produces annual guidelines for annuals and perennials suitable for heat and humidity. The garden, which is supported by growers and seed breeders around the world, is visited by flower breeders, retailers, landscapers, growers and gardeners throughout the year.

Lately, his research focuses on the utilization of woody shrubs for the greenhouse and retail industry. He believes that with the advent of more dwarf, colorful shrubs, greenhouse growers and the woody plant industry will finally join to provide these plants in smaller containers for the retail outlet and consumer.

Finally, one of the sources of pleasure is being a Flower Judge for the All America Selection organization, in which he evaluates plants that potentially make gardeners more successful.

Awards

His awards include The Kiplinger Chair at Ohio State University, the Alex Laurie Award for outstanding research in horticulture, Outstanding Teacher Award from the Professional

Greenhouse Growers of Georgia, the Futura Award for outstanding teaching and research from the Professional Plant Growers Association, the Golden Trowel Award for his book *Allan Armitage on Perennials* from the Garden Writers of America, the Education Media Award for his book *Specialty Cut flowers* from the Professional Plant Growers Association, Teacher of the Year from the Georgia Green Industry Association and the Gold Medal from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society for Exceptional Service in American Horticulture.

He was recognized as one of the best teachers in the nation when he received the distinguished National Educator Award from the American Horticultural Society and The Medal of Honor, the highest award possible from the Garden Club of America. He also was recognized as one of the top educators at The University of Georgia when he received the prestigious D.W. Brooks Award for Teaching in 2006. He was presented with the Horticulture Initiative Award, presented by the Southeast Greenhouse Growers Association, due to his direct enhancement of the economic well-being of the horticultural industry and was also presented with the Award of Excellence, the highest honor given by the National Council of State Garden Clubs. In 2000, he received the highest award possible from the Perennial Plant Association, the Award of Merit, in recognition of outstanding contributions to the perennial industry. Also in 2000, he was the first recipient of the Medal of Excellence from Greenhouse Grower Magazine, awarded to the individual most responsible for leadership in the new crop development.

A special award, The Allan Armitage Leadership Award, was established by the Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers to be awarded to the individual who exemplifies outstanding leadership in the specialty cut flower industry. In January, 2001, Dr Armitage was the only living person chosen among the top 10 "Spheres of Influence" in the floriculture business by his colleagues. In 2001, he was presented with the University of Georgia Alumni Award, a prestigious award based on excellence in teaching, research and extension. In 2006, he was presented the Alex Laurie Award for outstanding services and contributions to horticulture from the Society of American Florists.

Recently, he was honored with the celebrated Scott Medal and Award for contributions to American horticulture by the Scott Foundation in Swarthmore, PA, arguably the most prestigious honor in ornamental horticulture. He was recently presented with the Garden Writers Association Award for Magazine Writing in 2007.

Also in 2008, he was presented with the International Achievement Award from the Newport, Rhode Island Preservation Society. He also served as an advisor for the Garden Book Club of America and has consulted for Scholastic Books, publisher of the Magic School Bus series of science books for children.

In spring, 2006, Armitage launched a website for people in need of plant images for websites, catalogs or labels. The website, www.armitageimages.net, presently contains over 5000 images; he expects to have over 10,000 by fall, 2008.

Invited Sabbaticals:

He has been invited for 6 months to work with researchers and teachers in New Zealand (1987), Australia (1997) and Canada (2007).