

# PG Award for Excellence

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Buck Godwin (left) receives the second annual Prairie Garden Award for Excellence from Gary Platford, Co-chair of The Prairie Garden Committee (right).

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## **B. J. "Buck" Godwin Receives 2001 Prairie Garden Award for Excellence**

by Gary Platford, Co-chair of The Prairie Garden Committee

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The Prairie Garden Award for Excellence was presented to B. J. "Buck" Godwin at a luncheon held at the Pavilion Restaurant at Assiniboine Park in Winnipeg, Manitoba on September 19th, 2001. The Prairie Garden Committee presented Buck with a monetary award of \$1,000.00 and an engraved clock.

Buck Godwin is well known in the province of Alberta and Western Canada for his accomplishments in the extension, education and promotion of horticulture. Buck earned a diploma in Agriculture from the Vermilion School of Agriculture in 1950, and in 1954 he was granted a B.Sc. in Agriculture from the University of Alberta, majoring in Horticulture. He continued his education to earn a B.Ed. Degree from the University of Alberta in 1965. Buck has been an instructor in horticulture, plant science, and farm management since 1954 and has taught at Fairview College 1954 - 1958, Vermilion College 1958 - 1963 and Olds College 1963 - 1987. Prior to these appointments he was the foreman in charge of operation and development of extensive weed and mosquito control programs.

Although Buck officially retired in 1987, he has remained active in horticulture. After he retired he and his wife Nola, established a cut and dried flower business called Alberta Supernaturals near Olds Alberta. Alberta Supernaturals produces up to 50 species of field grown perennial and annual flowers, grasses and other ornamentals for both the fresh and dried flower market. Buck continues to teach horticulture students about floriculture in a hands-on approach at their Alberta Supernaturals farm, rather than in the classroom. In addition to teaching horticulture Buck has held the positions of Supervisor of College Grounds at both Fairview and Olds College. Buck has also been an active participant in the Alberta Horticulture Association, judging horticulture shows, yards and gardens for over 25 years, as well as teaching

judging courses for the horticulture association.

Buck has been recognized for his achievements in horticulture with numerous awards since 1977, including the Queen Elizabeth Silver Jubilee Medal 1977, Alberta Horticulture Association Centennial Gold Medal 1981, Entomological Society of Canada Norman Criddle Award 1981, Alberta Institute of Agrologists, The Distinguished Agrologists Award 1988 to name a few. He also has been awarded an Honorary Life Membership in the Western Canadian Society of Horticulture, 1991, and is an instructor Emeritus for Olds College, awarded with a designation for life in 1990. Buck has made very significant contributions to horticulture both at the professional and amateur level over the past 50 years of the 20th century and he continues to play an active role in the 21st century.

The Prairie Garden Committee takes great pride in awarding Buck Godwin the 2001 Award for Excellence in recognition of his long career in horticulture in Western Canada. We wish him well in his continuing involvement in horticulture.