

New Zealand Plant Protection Medal 2007



Photo: Dr Howard Wearing receives the New Zealand Plant Protection Medal from NZ Plant Protection Society President Philippa Stevens.

The inaugural New Zealand Plant Protection Medal, awarded for exceptional services to plant protection in New Zealand, was presented to Dr Howard Wearing at a ceremony during the 60th conference of the NZ Plant Protection Society in Napier on 15 August 2007.

Dr Wearing arrived in New Zealand in 1967 to start work with DSIR Entomology Division in Nelson, on the ecology of fruit crop pests, especially codling moth and mites. His analysis of the population dynamics of codling moth remains a classic study, and is but one of his many major contributions to our knowledge of orchard ecosystems.

His leadership within DSIR and HortResearch is legendary, not only for his determination to put scientific advances into practice - he can rightly be regarded as the founder of Integrated

Pest Management in New Zealand's fruit crops - but also for his development of a generation of younger scientists.

In addition, he introduced insecticide resistance management, post-harvest disinfestation of export fresh fruit crops, and developed a scientific basis for the organic production of horticultural crops.

Dr Wearing was passionate about implementing science to benefit horticulturists, and produced bugKEY, the first New Zealand web application (HortNET) specifically designed to assist fruitgrowers with the identification and management of insect and mite pests. He retired from HortResearch (Clyde) in 2001 but continues to provide expert opinion and advice. He was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand in 2001 and awarded the Marsden Medal in 2002.
