



National Association for Plant Breeding LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2025

MARK E. SORRELLS
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY

The 2025 recipient of the National Association for Plant Breeding (NAPB) Lifetime Achievement Award is Dr. Mark E. Sorrells, Professor of Plant Breeding and Genetics in the Plant Breeding and Genetics Section at Cornell University. The NAPB Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes an individual who has given distinguished long-term service to the plant breeding discipline in areas such as breeding/genetics research and publication, education (graduate or undergraduate training), extension outreach, and regional, national, and/or international leadership.

In his nomination letter, one colleague observed: *“Mark is one of the most accomplished cereal breeders and geneticists in the world and deserves to be recognized among the group of accomplished plant breeders who have received this honor.”* Another commented: *“Dr. Sorrells exemplifies the mission and core values of the NAPB: excellence in research, education, and outreach, fostering diversity, and treating all people with dignity and respect.”*

Sorrells has specialized in plant breeding methodologies and strategies, releasing 15 varieties of winter wheat, six spring oats, three winter barleys and two spring barleys. Recent research topics include genomic selection, hyperspectral imaging to predict wheat grain yield and intergenomic gene interactions in wheat.

Sorrells has been recognized as a highly cited researcher by the Clarivate Web of Science each year since 2017 and has authored or co-authored more than 350 peer reviewed publications. He has served as major advisor for 62 graduate students and 27 postdoctoral fellows.

As another colleague noted: *“What I find most impressive about Mark’s career is his ability to evolve with changing technology and research priorities while remaining focused on sound science and cultivar development.”*

Sorrells has received the Crop Science Society of America Outstanding Research Award and the Cornell College of Agriculture Outstanding Accomplishments in Applied Research award. He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He is also a Fellow and 2025 President of the Crop Science Society of America.

After earning his M.S. in Botany in 1975 at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale and his Ph.D. in Plant Breeding and Plant Genetics in 1978 at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Sorrells joined the Cornell Department of Plant Breeding and Biometry in 1978 and has been full professor of plant breeding since 1991.

In sum, as one of his colleagues wrote: *“I know that I speak for many of my colleagues when I congratulate Dr. Sorrells for his tremendous contributions to crop breeding. I recommend without reservation that NAPB recognize his contributions with its Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Sorrells continues to represent our profession and inspire future generations to use their talents for good of society.”*



Dr. Mark E. Sorrells is the 2025 recipient of the National Association for Plant Breeding Lifetime Achievement Award and Professor of Plant Breeding and Genetics in the Plant Breeding and Genetics Section at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY



Dr. Mark E. Sorrells, the 2025 recipient of the National Association for Plant Breeding Lifetime Achievement Award at a Field Day, Cornell University Musgrave Research Farm, Aurora NY



Dr. Mark E. Sorrells, the 2025 recipient of the National Association for Plant Breeding Lifetime Achievement Award, at one of his breeding nurseries near the Cornell University campus, Ithaca NY.