CDC Copeland Barley Wins Seed of the Year 2019-2020

After 17 years on the market, CDC Copeland was selected to receive the Seed of the Year award as part of the Canadian Plant Breeding Innovations Awards program.

Seed of the Year is an initiative recognizing plant breeders. The program honours seed breeders for the success of their varieties in the market, and increasing the knowledge of the importance of breeding programs in Canada. Seed of the Year aims to acknowledge the contributions of these varieties on the agri-food sector.

Varieties are nominated for the award. They are evaluated on their performance, presence in the value chain, sustainability, marketability, innovation, end use potential, overall impact and contribution to the Canadian agri-food industry.

CDC Copeland was released by Crop Development Centre barley breeders Dr. Bryan Harvey and Dr. Brian Rossnagel in 1999. It is a two-row malting barley with high yields and good straw strength. It was found to combine excellent brewing characteristics with lower protein and enzyme levels.

CDC Copeland is marketed in Canada and the United States by SeCan, available though a network of over 500 seed grower members across Canada. In 2019 SeCan members sold more CDC Copeland than any other year in the history of the variety.
Staff Appointments

Amara Gungaabayar began working as a research technician with the Barley and Oat breeding program on October 7, 2019.

Meracel Aring began working as a research technician with the spring wheat and canaryseed program on November 1, 2019.

Xue (Snow) Lin began working as a research technician with the Durum molecular laboratory on November 12, 2019.

Alyssa Funk joined the barley and oat breeding program as a research technician on November 12, 2019.

Ehsan Sari began working as a Research Officer with the Durum wheat molecular breeding laboratory on November 4, 2019.

Charles Brook joined the spring wheat and canaryseed breeding program as a research technician on November 1, 2019.

Graduate students Zelalem Taye and Amanda Fedorchuk visited the Egadz drop in centre located at 485 1st Ave in Saskatoon on Wednesday December 18 to drop off the items that were generously donated by the department as well as the money raised by the raffles at the department holiday party. From the generous gifts from all of our groups, we were able to donate $2,318.00 to the street outreach program. The money will be used to purchase hats, mitts and jackets for at risk youth and their families. The various items donated will be divided between the programs drop in centre as well as their newly unveiled ‘sweat equity’ transition housing project; Fusion 22.
Long Term Service Recognition

The Plant Sciences Department and the Crop Development Centre would like to recognize the following staff members on their years of service milestones:

For the months of October, 2019 - December, 2019

30 years of Service:
Barb Boon
Research Technician
Flax Research Program
November 1, 1989

5 years of Service:
Tirsit Tesfaye
Research Technician
Spring Wheat and Canaryseed Breeding
December 1, 2014

30 years of Service:
Darrin Clauson
Research Technician
Crop Science Field Lab
October 1, 1989

5 years of Service:
Minh Vu
Research Technician
Pulse field breeding program
November 14, 2014

10 years of Service:
Kamal Pathirannehelage
Research Technician
Pulse Pathology
December 1, 2009

5 years of Service:
Stacey Lingelbach
Research Technician
Barley & Oat Breeding
November 3, 2014

10 years of Service:
Ambuj Jha
Research Officer
Pulse Molecular Breeding
October 28, 2009

Crop Production Show ..........................................Jan 13-16, 2020
Cropshere ..........................................................Jan 14-15, 2020
Soils and Crops .....................................................March 10-11, 2020
Gardenscape .........................................................March 27-29, 2020
Ag in Motion .........................................................July 21-23, 2020
Congratulations...

above left: Professor Grant Wood was the recipient of the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Teaching Award of Merit. The NACTA award recognizes the highest level of teaching achievement in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. The selection committee was impressed by Prof Wood's commitment to experiential learning and his outstanding record of undergraduate teaching.

above right: Jackie Bantle was selected as the recipient of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources Staff Excellence Award. Both Grant and Jackie received their awards at the Agbio College annual awards Celebration “Bean Feed” on November 20, 2019.

Lisa Fomenko successfully defended her M.Sc thesis entitled “The Role of Pollen for the Transfer of Apomixis into Sexual Populations of the Genus Boechera (Brassicaceae)” on Tuesday December 17, 2019.


Fan Yang received a scholarship from the Saskatchewan Barley Growers for her work on Ruhq, a gene that is resistant to covered smut.

Gursahib Singh placed first for his presentation entitled “Managing Fusarium Head Blight in durum wheat” at the Saskatchewan Canadian Phytopathological Society meeting held on Tuesday November 26, 2019 in Saskatoon.

Khaldoun Ali won the 1st place travel award for a Ph.D student for his oral presentation entitled ‘Mechanisms of weed seed predation and its potential role in weed biocontrol’ at the Canadian Weed Science Society (CWSS-SCM) held November 18-21, 2019 in Kelowna, BC.

Stefanie De Heij won the 3rd place travel award for a Ph.D student for her oral presentation entitled ‘Weed seed biocontrol by carabids in pulse crops’ at the Canadian Weed Science Society (CWSS-SCM) held November 18-21, 2019 in Kelowna, BC.

Kirstin Bett was given the North American Pulse Improvement Association Meritorious Service Award at the BIC & NAPIA biennial meetings that were held in Fargo, North Dakota from November 3-8, 2019. She received the award in recognition her research excellence in genetics and genomics in the pulse crop industry. BIC (bean improvement cooperative) is a voluntary and informal organization that was established to effect the exchange of information and materials for the improvement of bean production worldwide. NAPIA (National pea improvement association) was formed in 1956 as an organization supporting fresh pea breeders. Their focus changed in 1999 to also include other food legumes.
Several graduate students attended the Agbio College annual awards Celebration “Bean Feed” on November 20, 2019 where they received a variety of scholarships and awards. Pictured to the right:

**back row:** Surendra Bhattarai, Ana Vargos Palacios, Dan Malamura, Asanka Godakanda, Denys Solskyi

**front row:** Maria Alejandra Oviedo-Ludena, Berenice Romero, Soudeh Farzadfar, Praveen Sapkota, Trang Phan, Rasanwada Wijesundara

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**Halloween fun...**

The Plant Sciences general office joined in the fun on Halloween...

and on the evening of Halloween, graduate students Berenice Romero and Alejandra Maria Oviedo-Ludena stopped by Randy Kutcher’s home for some candy treats!

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**The Pheno bus...**

Introducing the PLSC Shirliffe laboratory “Phenobus”, a mobile UAV lab funded by the WED to create on Omics and Precision Agriculture Laboratory (OPAL) equipped with computer stations, generators, and power stations! The group has been partnering with Draganfly Inc in support of the Precision Ag research.
Many thanks need to go out to the those that attended the holiday party on Friday, December 13 and to the many that helped with the events through the evening. Thanks to the graduate students (Amanda Fedorchuk, Matthew Wengler, Ana Vargas Palacios & Ola Kanmi-Obembe) for organizing and managing the raffle prizes and selling tickets. Thanks to Jackie Bantle for acting as MC and doing a wonderful job as usual. Thanks to Steve Shirliffe and Kofi Agblor for being great elves and helping Santa keep the excited kids in order. Thanks to True North Photo Booths for providing the link to some of the photos on the left. And of course a huge THANK YOU once again to the department for subsidizing the cost of the dinner ticket for our employees and their families. This has helped to keep our costs low and affordable for so many of our staff members. Once again we had a very large crowd with over 230 people in attendance. With the successful raffle prizes we were able to raise $2,318.00 for the Egadz Street Outreach Program.
Farewell for Dr. Kofi Agblor December 12, 2019

The Cathedral Social Hall in downtown Saskatoon was the setting for a farewell for Dr. Kofi Agblor. As Kofi has chosen to leave Saskatchewan behind and head to Alberta where he can finally reunite with his family and be the full time grandpa that brings him so much joy, the evening was bittersweet. While many wished him well in his next journey, so many are sad to see him go. The work that Kofi has done over the past eight years to raise the awareness of the Crop Development Centre. His expertise, vision and insight will be missed!

CSFL Annual Potluck December 19, 2019

The annual Crop Science Field Lab potluck holiday lunch was held on Thursday December 19. Thanks once again to Shelley Duncan who organized the event and to everyone for sharing their fantastic dishes! The variety of dishes from the diverse ethnic backgrounds makes this event one of the most anticipated events during the holidays at the field lab.
Each year the second year students in the Fundamentals of Horticulture course are given two weeks to develop a landscape plan. This year, instructors Karen Tanino and Bob Bors partnered with the Western Development Museum on a landscaping project, and challenged the students to design an area for the Museum’s grounds beautification project.

The designs were presented and narrowed down to six Client’s Choice award recipients. The following students will have ideas from their submissions incorporated into the final plan: Shannon Bickley, Robert J. Evans, Taylor Johnston, Kate Petersen, Dylan Saam-Deer, Cary Wilson

The six designs were then presented to the Museum’s top donors who have financially supported the project. The top donors have been asked to provide their perspectives regarding the designs and to provide feedback to the final decision making.

The beautification project on the Museum’s ground is set to begin in March 2020.
Nimillash Sivachandra Kumar and his new wife were married in Tamil Nadu, India on December 8, 2019. Making the journey from Saskatoon to share in the festivities were Cheryl Cho and her family, Kiela Caudillo and Paulina Cholango. Nimillash is a research assistant in the pulse pathology laboratory.

Congratulations...

right photo:. Preeni Bawa and her new husband were married on November 3, 2019 in Ludhiana, Punjab, India. Preeni is a masters student in the pulse pathology laboratory.

photo below. Nimillash Sivachandra Kumar and his new wife were married in Tamil Nadu, India on December 8, 2019. Making the journey from Saskatoon to share in the festivities were Cheryl Cho and her family, Kiela Caudillo and Paulina Cholango. Nimillash is a research assistant in the pulse pathology laboratory.