

From the Oat Newsletter, volume 28, 1977:

Dr. John E. Graphius
Award for Distinguished Service to Oat Improvement



Dr. John E. Graphius, Professor of Plant Breeding at Michigan State University, has been a leader in research on small grains and in the development of improved small grain varieties. His oat varieties include James, a hullless type, Coachman, Menominee, Au Sable, Mariner, Korwood, and Mackinaw. He has developed varieties of barley, winter wheat, and rye as well.

Dr. Graphius authored more than 60 technical articles in plant breeding and related subjects, and is perhaps best known for his monograph entitled "A Geometry of Plant Breeding" which describes his philosophy and strategy of plant breeding. He has been instrumental in applying mathematics to many breeding problems. Also, he has made contributions in development of plot equipment, namely a mechanical plot seeder and a self-propelled plot combine.

He has been and is an excellent plant breeding teacher, having taught statistics and advanced plant breeding. During his career he advised a number of graduate students, both domestic and international. He is a past Crop Science Achievement Award winner, a Guggenheim fellow and a Fellow in ASA. He is a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Xi, Alpha Zeta and the American Society of Agronomy and Crop Science Society of America. He has been active in university activities including service on the Academic Council of Michigan State University.

John E. Graphius was born June 8, 1916 in Rochester, New York. He received his B.S. degree from Michigan State University and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Iowa State

University. After receiving the Ph.D. in 1942, he joined the staff at South Dakota State University, then later moved back to Michigan State University in 1953, where he served as Professor of Farm Crops until his retirement.