

Campbell Award

The Campbell Award, sponsored by the Campbell Soup Company, is given in recognition of an outstanding research contribution of the past two years, of either fundamental or practical significance for the production of a vegetable crop, or certain other crops, used for processing purposes. It consists of a cash prize of \$2,000 and a bronze medal. The award is presented in alternate years by The American Phytopathological Society and the Horticulture Society.



RICHARD D. BERGER is honored by the Campbell Award for his development of disease forecasting systems for early blight of celery and northern leaf blight of sweet corn. This research, published in 1973 in *Phytopathology*, describes innovative and reliable predictive methods which utilize spore trap monitoring and plant growth

information in conjunction with meteorological data.

The use of these systems to reduce fungicide applications during periods of low disease hazards has resulted in dramatic savings to growers. In many cases the amount of fungicide needed during the crop growing season has been reduced by half. Perhaps more important has been the accompanying reduction in pesticide pollution of the environment. Also, because the systems predict periods of high disease hazard, disease control has improved, and widespread epidemics, which formerly were common, are now rare. In his research, Dr. Berger has found practical applications for established principles and long-standing epidemiological theories. At the same time, his approach has uncovered new epidemiological concepts which promise to reveal new facets of disease control.

Dr. Berger received his undergraduate education at Kutztown State College, Pa. He obtained the Ph.D. in 1962 from the University of Wisconsin. After a post-doctoral year at Wisconsin, he served as Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology at Pennsylvania State University from 1963 to 1966. In 1966, he transferred to the University of Florida, Agricultural Research and Education Center, Belle Glade, where he is now Associate Professor and Associate Plant Pathologist.