

Gordon John Green, 1920-1982

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Dr. G. J. Green, Senior Research Scientist at the Agriculture Canada Research Station, Winnipeg, passed away on February 22, 1982 at the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg after a brief illness.

He was born in Winnipeg, September 15, 1920. After graduation from Kelvin High School in 1937, he was employed by Manitoba Pool Elevators until 1941. He then served with the Royal Canadian Air Force until the end of 1945. After the war, he studied agriculture at the University of

Manitoba and graduated with a B.Sc.A. in 1949, continued studies in plant pathology with Dr. J. G. Dickson at the University of Wisconsin and graduated with a Ph.D. degree in 1953. He joined the Research Branch of Agriculture Canada in Winnipeg as a research scientist associated with Dr. Thorvaldur Johnson and specializing in cereal rusts, a position he held at the time of his death. Dr. Green respected and admired the work of Johnson, Stakman, Watson and others and built on their work, but he also freely explored new concepts and approaches. His research has been basic to the breeding of stem rust-resistant wheat cultivars in Canada and abroad and his findings have had worldwide influence on research and scientific thinking about cereal rusts. In addition to participating in the development of a series of superior wheats that have protected the Canadian crop from stem rust losses for over 25 years, he made important contributions to our understanding of the inheritance of virulence in *Puccinia graminis* and to the development of a flexible system of rust nomenclature that is now widely used in North America and abroad. He had a healthy scepticism toward the concepts of "stabilizing selection," "horizontal resistance," and "generalized resistance," often suggesting that the available data usually did not support those hypotheses. Dr. Green authored or coauthored more than 130 scientific and technical papers; his outstanding contributions to science were recognized when he was awarded the Public Service of Canada Merit Award in 1976.

In addition to responsibilities with Agriculture Canada, Dr. Green served with the Canadian International Development Agency in Kenya, Tanzania, and Brazil and spent 1 year as a visiting scientist with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization in Sydney, Australia. He also served as honorary professor in the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of Manitoba, supervised the graduate study programs of three Ph.D. students, and attracted several National Science and Engineering Research Council Postdoctoral Fellows from abroad.

Dr. Green was a strong and loyal supporter of numerous scientific and professional societies including the American Phytopathological Society, the Australian Phytopathological Society, the Canadian Genetics Society, the Agricultural Institute of Canada, and Sigma Xi. Dr. Green was immediate past president of the Canadian Phytopathological Society.

Dr. Green's scientific work was his life. There was nothing he would rather have done or any other place he would rather have been than working at his beloved rust laboratory. In private life he enjoyed a cottage on Caddy Lake in the Whiteshell area of the Great Canadian Shield during the summers and the occasional ski trip and/or holidays in the south in winter. In earlier years he also hunted migratory birds with colleagues almost every fall. Gord was noted for conservative views on politics, adventures in the stock market, and firm views about unions and their relationship to the world's economic ills, all of which provided friends and colleagues with many "lighter" moments over the years. It provided no end of merriment when his eldest son became a union research officer as soon as he graduated from the university.

Dr. Green exemplifies a small group of dedicated Canadian scientists whose achievements contributed much to the advance of scientific knowledge as well as the economic well-being of western Canada. Had their efforts been unsuccessful, wheat production in the rust-affected area of Canada and the well-being of many millions would have been seriously threatened. His untimely passing is a great loss to his family, the community, and the scientific world.

Dr. Green is survived by his wife, Margaret, and their children: Linda of McCreary, Manitoba; Ross of Saskatoon; and Keith of Winnipeg.