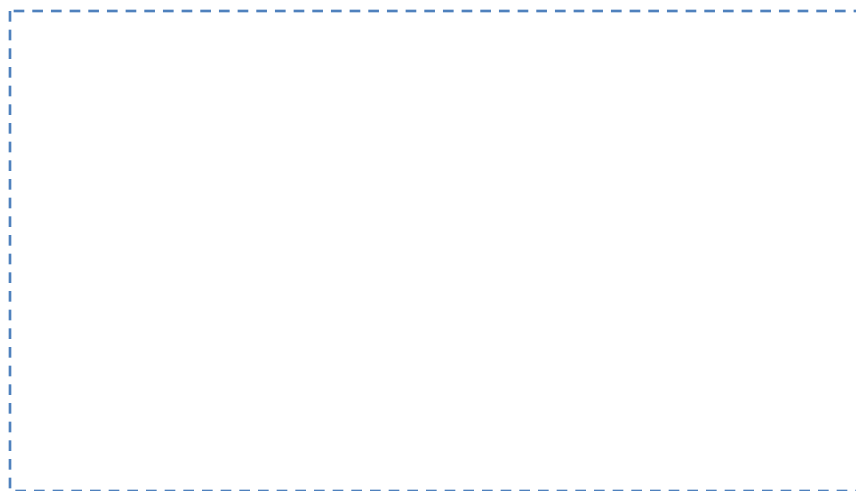


TEXAS A&M PLANT BREEDING

June 2009



Video by Dr. Wayne Smith

We are pleased to initiate the TAM Plant Breeding Bulletin with the intent of improving communications within the plant improvement community. We will distribute these bulletins several times per year with information about our plant breeding activities, research accomplishments, and news of our students. We hope that you will find the bulletins interesting and informative. We welcome suggestions for improvement.



I want to take the opportunity of this initial offering to share information about our graduate programs in plant breeding and our current students. Plant Breeding is a graduate level degree that is conferred in both the Department of Horticultural Sciences and the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences. Texas AgriLife Research has 24 plant breeders across the state with academic attachment in these departments; 13 located at College Station and 11 located at Research and Extension Centers. These 24 plant breeders have activities in 20 crop plants, both agronomic and horticultural. Over 300 cultivars and germplasm lines have been developed and released by Texas AgriLife Research during the past 10 years (http://soilcrop.tamu.edu/research/breeding/crop_release.html).



Over 30 students are seeking advanced degrees in Plant Breeding at Texas A&M. These students are conducting research in traditional or conventional plant breeding and in molecular genetics. Our graduate students, advisors, and research areas can be viewed at <http://soilcrop.tamu.edu/research/breeding/grads.html>. We will highlight particular graduate students and their research from time to time in this Plant Breeding Bulletin.

We also have initiated Undergraduate Plant Breeding Internships to introduce junior and senior undergraduates to the world of plant breeding. We hope this program will attract undergraduate students not only from Texas A&M but also from other four year and two year institutions around the state. Our Plant Breeding Intern for 2009 is Maria Ypina, a biology major

from Lone Star Cy-Fair Community College in Houston
(<http://soilcrop.tamu.edu/research/breeding/index.html>).

Future Plant Breeding Bulletins will highlight breeding programs, releases, and other items of interest to the plant breeding community. Please direct comments concerning this bulletin to Wayne Smith, cwsmith@tamu.edu or 979.845.3450.

