

July 21, 2011

It is with deepest sorrow that I report the passing of Dr. Robert E. Perdue, Jr. He died suddenly at the age of 86 years.

Graduating from the University of Maryland in Botany shortly after WWII, he went on to receive a Master's and Doctorate in Biology and Plant Taxonomy from Harvard University. His career, traversing the latter half of the 20th and early 21st centuries, included the US Geological Survey, Texas Research Foundation, and more than three decades as a leading plant taxonomist for the US Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service. While at USDA, he worked alongside the National Cancer Institute in the development of the cancer therapeutic, Taxol. During his extensive research career, he traveled the globe, concentrating on plant taxonomy, economic botany, plant exploration and introduction and germplasm conservation. Upon retiring from the USDA in 1989, Bob served as president of a private company, Ver-Tech International, Inc., continuing his global pursuits. In 2006 as an independent contractor, Bob joined HeteroGeneity, a Washington, DC-based consulting company that focuses on the development of complex products, such as botanicals, both as foods and as drugs. His wife, Georgia Perdue, PhD, a pharmacognosist, continues to be actively involved in the American Society of Pharmacognosy and other organizations, such as the NIH. Bob will be greatly missed.

Sincerely,

Freddie Ann Hoffman

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