

Sims Receives National Soil Science Award

Lancaster Farming
Antiques Center
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NEWARK, Del. — Dr. J. Thomas Sims, professor of soil and environmental chemistry in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Delaware (UD), has received the Soil Science Applied Research Award from the Soil Science Society of America.

The award recognizes outstanding achievement in applying research principles to practical problems in soil science.

A national authority on soil testing and nutrient and waste management, Sims has developed and implemented environmentally sound soil and waste management programs for agriculture, industry, and municipalities.

In an ongoing effort to improve environmentally sound management practices, Sims has worked extensively with production agriculture to maximize yields while minimizing the environmental impact of nutrients on groundwater and surface waters. He has also explored environmentally efficient uses for agricultural, municipal, and industrial by-products as soil amendments.

As director of the UD Soil

Testing Program for 15 years, Sims has advocated the use of the latest advances in soil testing, and has conducted an active educational outreach program. He served as associate editor for the Journal of Environmental Quality from 1994 to 2000.

Sims was elected a Fellow by the American Society of Agronomy in 1995 and by the Soil Science Society of America in 1996. From 1991 to 1994, he served as president of the society's northeastern branch, which presented him with the Outstanding Research Award in 1996. Sims is past chair of the Soil Science Society of America's division of soils and environmental quality.

On the faculty at UD since 1982, Sims teaches an undergraduate course in environmental soil management and soils and a graduate level course in advanced soil management. In addition to the Soil Science Society of America, Sims belongs to the American Society of Agronomy and the Soil and Plant Analysis Council.

Sims received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Georgia and a doctorate from Michigan State University.

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