Twenty-five Years of Award-winning Education Publication Excellence in ASHS Journals

Curt R. Rom[1]

Keywords. advising, awards, curriculum, learning, teaching

Abstract. **The American Society for Horticultural Science Education Publication Excellence award was established in 1997 to recognize the most outstanding publication in ASHS journals related to education and teaching. This article reviews the award history, authors, and topics of the awarded papers. The award was recognized annually from 1998 to 2023 except for 3 years when no award was given. The majority of awarded papers were published in *HortTechnology*. Awards were presented to 70 authors from 23 institutions in 20 states and two other countries. Of the awarded papers, three had single authors, and 20 had multiple authors. Several awarded authors have been recognized in other ASHS publication awards or professional career awards. The majority of awarded papers focused on undergraduate students, teaching methods, and floriculture or ornamental topics.**

Because of its importance to the disciplines, horticultural education has for decades had a prominent role in and been recognized by the American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS). The ASHS established an Education Division with its first division meetings in 1965 (Batjer 1966). When ASHS started publishing *HortTechnology* in 1991 (ASHS 1990), a special section on *Teaching Methods* (Kelly 1990) was created to encourage publishing the scholarship of horticultural education appropriate for the mission of the publication. The first paper published in this section was titled "Increasing Library Skills of Horticulture Students" (Newman and Ellsbury 1991).

In the 1992 Presidential Address at the annual ASHS conference, President Fretz (1992), stated, "More emphasis needs to be placed on teaching in much the same manner as research." With that possible motive, the ASHS started recognizing excellence in the scholarship of teaching, course and curriculum development, and mentorship through the Outstanding Education Publication Award. This award was created by the ASHS Board of Directors on 12 Apr 1997, with the first award made in 1998 (ASHS 1997). The objective of the award was "To recognize and honor author(s) of an outstanding education paper published in the previous year's issues of ASHS Serial Publications." This award joined previously created ASHS awards for outstanding publications of fruit, vegetable, ornamental/floriculture, cross-commodity, and extension papers. Criteria for and selection of the Education Publication Awards were consistent with other topical publication awards.

From the award description, it is stated that

> *Papers shall report results of original research or development of horticultural curricula, student advising, and/or teaching methods including, but not limited to case studies, laboratory exercises, computer software, or other teaching aids that are broadly applicable to Horticulture. (ASHS 1997)*

For eligibility, at least one author must have been an ASHS member in the year of publication. The basis for judging and selection of the awarded papers is 1) originality, accuracy, clarity, and conciseness, and 2) the contribution to the advancement of the teaching–learning discipline (ASHS 1997).

The screening committee comprises five ASHS members appointed by the ASHS president who will also designate a chair (ASHS 1997). However, the current committee has eight members serving staggered 3-year terms with a senior member of the committee serving as the chair (ASHS 2023a). At the completion of the publication of the final issue of the year for the serial publications, screening committee members are to read and select three nominated papers for consideration of the award. From the compiled list of nominated papers, the committee will review then select and rank two top papers (ASHS 1997). The chair of the screening committee shall report the selection to the Awards Committee and the ASHS Executive Director. The Awards Committee is responsible for the final selection. In a year where the Screening Committee feels no paper meets the criteria and standards for an award, no award will be made.

What follows is a brief analysis of the Outstanding Education Publication awarded papers, complete citations of recognized papers, and analyses of the paper authorship and contents.

Methods

A list of ASHS Education Publication Awards (ASHS 2023b) was identified, and from that complete citations were developed (Table 1). To determine the number of published papers on teaching, educational instruction, and curriculum design, the table of contents of all *HortTechnology* and *HortScience* issues from 1997 to 2022 were reviewed (ASHS 2023c). Additionally, the available online search engine was used to search all papers with *HortTechnology* and *HortScience* with the following search terms used in titles, keywords, or abstracts (asterisks indicating Boolean operators for any truncated use of the root-word between the asterisk's); *advis*, *class*, *course*, *curric*, *educat*, *learn*, *mentor*, *student*, and *teach*.

From the list of authors (Table 1), a list of authors' state at time of the publication was compiled (Table 2). From the list of ASHS career award lists (ASHS 2023d), the frequency of authors receiving other ASHS publication or career awards was evaluated.

The awarded papers were reviewed and categorized as to the primary focus and audience of the paper. From the titles and keywords, a list of adjectives and nouns was compiled and alphabetized in a spreadsheet (Microsoft Excel; Microsoft Corp., Redmond, WA,

Received for publication 14 Dec 2023. Accepted for publication 20 Dec 2023.

Published online 26 Apr 2024.

[1]Department of Horticulture, PTSC 316, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701, USA

I acknowledge the assistance of American Society for Horticultural Science staff contributing information for this article, particularly M. Neff, T. Shawn, and S. Powell.

25 Years of Publication Excellence Awards for ASHS Journals.

C.R.R. is the corresponding author. E-mail: crom@uark.edu.

https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTTECH05375-23

Table 1. The year of award and the citations of the American Society for Horticultural Science Education Publication Awards, 1998–2023.

Year	Citation
1998	Decoteau D. Writing in horticulture: A course to help graduate students write more effectively. HortTechnology. 7(1):81–84. https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTTECH.7.1.81.
1999	Trigiano R, Caetano-Anolles G. Laboratory exercises on DNA amplification fingerprinting for evaluating the molecular diversity of horticultural species. HortTechnology. 8(3):413–423. https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTTECH.8.3.413.
2000	Goldman I. Teaching recurrent selection in the classroom with Wisconsin Fast Plants. HortTechnology. 9(4):579–584. https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTTECH.9.4.579.
2001	No award given.
2002	Anderson N. New methodology to teach floral induction in floriculture potted plant production classes. HortTechnology. 12(1):157–167. https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTTECH.12.1.157.
2003	No award given.
2004	Mudge K, Hennigan K, Pondaras P. Use of tropical hibiscus for instruction in grafting. HortTechnology. 13(4):723–728. https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTTECH.13.4.0723.
2005	Spaw M, Williams K. Full Moon Farm builds high tunnels: a case study in site planning for crop production structures. HortTechnology. 14(3):449–454. https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTTECH.14.3.0449.
2006	No award given.
2007	Beidler K, Jeffery I, Nusser S, VanDerZanden A. Assessing the preparedness of postsecondary graduates entering the landscape contracting industry. HortTechnology. 16(2):312–317. https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTTECH.16.2.0312.
2008	Teolis I, Peffley E, Wester D. Comparing student performance in live vs. web-based instruction in herbaceous plant identification. HortTechnology. 17(1):120–124. https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTTECH.17.1.120.
2009	Spaw M, Williams K, Hodges L, Paparozzi E, Malhberg I. A Case study to teach the diagnostic process: determining the cause of chlorosis in a crop of cut dicentra. HortTechnology. 18(1):168–176. https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTTECH.18.1.168.
2010	Basinger A, McKenney C, Auld D. Competencies for a United States horticulture undergraduate major: a national Delphi study. HortTechnology. 19(2):452–458. https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTTECH.19.2.452.
2011	Fita A, Tarin N, Prohens J, Rodriguez-Burruezo A. A software tool for teaching backcross breeding simulation. HortTechnology. 20(6):1049–1053. https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTTECH.20.6.1049.
2012	Campbell K, Wilson S, Wilson P, He Z. Interactive online tools for teaching plant identification. HortTechnology. 21(4):504–508. https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTTECH.21.4.504.
2013	Langellotto G, Gupta A. Gardening increases vegetable consumption in school-aged children: a meta-analytical synthesis. HortTechnology. 22(4):430–445. https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTTECH.22.4.430.
2014	Anderson, N, Walker N. Marketing genetically modified organism carnations by future floral designers: student-designated policy formulation. HortTechnology. 23(5):683–688. https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTTECH.23.5.683.
2015	Craver, J, Williams K. Assessing student learning from an experiential module in a greenhouse management course using hydroponics and recirculating solution culture. HortTechnology. 24(5):610–617. https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTTECH.24.5.610.
2016	Uchanski M, Grover K, VanLeeuwen D, Goss R. Integrating hoop house construction into an undergraduate general education plant science course. HortTechnology. 25(2):247–252. https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTTECH.25.2.247.
2017	Sciarappa W, Quinn V, Ward D. Comparing conventional, hybrid, and distance learning courses in horticulture. HortTechnology. 26(5):677–682. https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTTECH03377-16.
2018	LeBude A, Fulcher A, Dubois J, Braman K, Chappel M, Chong J, Derr J, Gauthier N, Hale F, Knox G, Neal J, Windham A. Experiential nursery integrated pest management workshop series to enhance grower practice adoption. HortTechnology. 27(6):772–781. https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTTECH03765-17.
2019	No award was given.
2020	Brown A, Allen P, Jolley G, Stewart R. The downward trend in postsecondary horticulture program availability between 1997 and 2017. HortTechnology. 29(4):417–422. https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTTECH04251-18.
2021	Kim S, Oh Y, Park S. Foliage plants improve concentration and emotional condition of elementary school students performing an intensive assignment. HortScience. 55(3):378–385. https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTSCI14757-19.
2022	Etheredge C, Waliczek T. Comparative analysis of Generation Z era students' overall grades and course satisfaction of a basic floral design course taught fully face-to-face vs. an online hybrid format. HortTechnology. 31(6):709–714. https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTTECH04900-21.
2023	Cato S, McWhirt A, Herrera L. Combating horticultural misinformation through integrated online campaigns using social media, graphics interchange format, and blogs. HortTechnology. 32(4):342–347. https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTTECH05009-22.

Table 2. States and universities of origin for American Society for Horticultural Education Publication awards, 1998–2023.

State or country of award recipients	University and main campus location	Year(s) of award
Arkansas	University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR, USA	2023
Florida	University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA	2012, 2018
Georgia	University of Georgia, Athens, GA, USA	2018
Iowa	Iowa State University, Ames, IA, USA	2007
Kansas	Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS, USA	2005, 2009, 2015
Kentucky	University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA	2018
Minnesota	University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN, USA	2002, 2014
Mississippi	Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS, USA	2022
Nebraska	University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE, USA	2009
New Jersey	Rutgers, New Brunswick, NJ, USA	2017
New Mexico	New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM, USA	2016
New York	Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA	2004
	State University of New York, Morrisville, NY, USA	
North Carolina	North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA	2018
Oregon	Oregon State University, Corvalis, OR, USA	2013
South Carolina	Clemson University, Clemson, SC, USA	1998, 2018
Tennessee	University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, USA	1999, 2018
Texas	Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX, USA	2008, 2010
	Texas State University, San Marcos, TX, USA	2022
Utah	Brigham Young University, Provo, UT, USA	2020
Virginia	Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, USA	2018
Wisconsin	University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, USA	2000
Korea	Konkuk University, Seoul, South Korea	2021
Spain	Universitat Politècnica de València, València, Spain	2011

USA). Words with close association were clustered. The frequency of those word clusters was assessed.

Discussion

The awarded papers are listed in Table 1. The first award was made in 1998 and given annually except for the years 2001, 2006, and 2019 when no award was given. Awarded papers came from 23 different institutions in 20 states and two other countries (Table 2). Most education-related papers were published within the *Teaching Methods* section of *HortTechnology*; however, some papers were included as proceedings of workshops. About 5.1 education-related papers per volume were published annually in *HortTechnology* except in years when the proceedings of a teaching or education symposia or workshops were published (Fig. 1). An infrequent number of papers were published in *HortScience* with identified single education-related papers published in 1997, 1999, 2009, 2017, 2018, and 2021, and two papers in 2022.

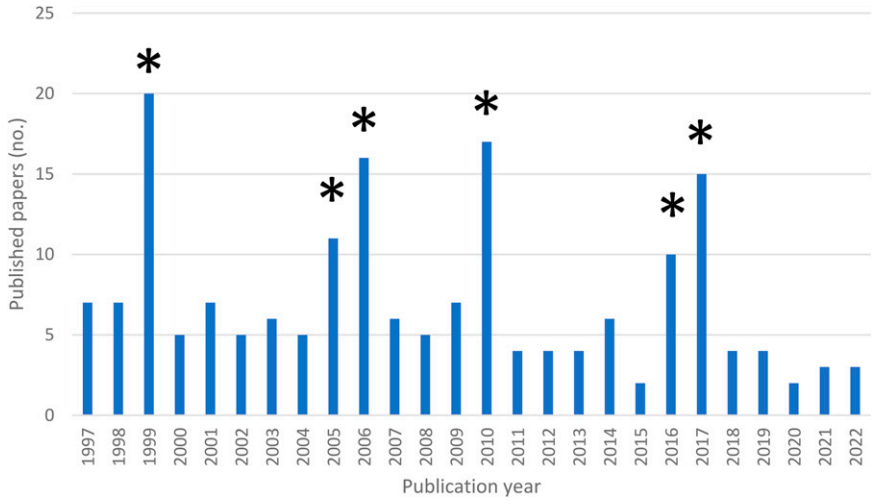

Fig. 1. The number of education and teaching papers published in *HortTechnology*, 1997–2022. *Years of published papers from teaching workshops or symposia.

Although teaching may be considered solitary work, many of the award-receiving papers had multiple authors. The 23 awarded papers had 70 coauthors. Three of the papers had a single author, six papers had dual authorship, six papers had three or four authors, one paper had five authors, and one had 14 authors from multiple institutions. Four of the papers were authored by scholars from two or more institutions. One author, Williams (Kansas State University) had three papers receiving the award (2005, 2009, 2019), and two authors, Anderson (University of Minnesota) and Spaw (Kansas State University), had two papers awarded (2002 and 2014, 2005 and 2009, respectively) (Tables 1 and 2).

Of the awarded paper authors, several have been recognized by the ASHS for publication or career accomplishments (ASHS 2023d). Authors recognized for other ASHS publication awards were Braman (University of Georgia), who was a coauthor of an Outstanding Extension Publication, and Anderson, and Trigiano (University

of Tennessee) who were coauthors for Outstanding Ornamental publications. The authors Williams, Wilson (University of Florida), and VanDerZanden (Iowa State University) all received Outstanding Undergraduate Educator awards. Wilson also received the Outstanding Graduate Educator career award, and Trigiano received the Outstanding Researcher award. Eight of the authors have been recognized for career achievement by the Society as Fellows: Anderson, Goldman (University Wisconsin), McKenney (Texas Tech University), Paparozzi (University Nebraska), Trigiano, Cade (Texas State University), Wilson, and VanDerZanden (ASHS 2023d).

Of the criteria award categories (ASHS 1997), 18 of the papers focused on teaching methods, four on curriculum, and no papers on advising were awarded. An assessment of the paper topics indicated that techniques for experiential learning, which is often a trademark of horticultural curricula, was the most common general topic or theme in eight papers. Other topics and themes included web-based, online or software-aided instruction (six papers), use of case studies (two papers), curriculum evaluation and design (two papers), career preparation or job training (two papers), improving writing (one paper), or matters of general education (one paper). The focus and topics of the awarded papers was diverse. Nineteen of the papers regarded undergraduate education, two dealt with graduate education, and two with kindergarten through 12th-grade education.

The title words were evaluated for frequency of word clusters or relatedness. The most frequent word cluster was "floriculture or ornamental," followed by "teaching or instruction," "student performance or assessment," and "breeding or genetics." The keywords for each paper were also assessed for word clusters and relatedness. The "floriculture or ornamental" cluster was the most frequently used followed by "education or teaching" "teaching methods or instruction," and "learning styles."

Conclusion

The ASHS has an awards program history of both publications and acknowledging the significant contributions of its membership. The Outstanding Education Publication award recognizes significant accomplishments in horticultural education in many disciplines and states. The Education Publication award recognizes contributions to the discipline of education teaching and thereby implicitly encourages both excellence in teaching, and the work and submission of original research or materials on education, teaching, curriculum development, and advising.

References cited

American Society for Horticultural Science. 1990. HortTechnology. Proposed new journal seeks interested editors. ASHS Newsletter. 6(2):1.

American Society for Horticultural Science. 1997. Specifications for the ASHS education publication award. https://cdn.ymaws.com/ashs.org/resource/collection/A6A07572-3792-4EBC-B7B5-0EFBCD001D10/education.pdf. [accessed 13 Dec 2023].

American Society for Horticultural Science. 2023a. Screening Committees, education publication award. https://ashs.org/general/custom.asp?page=committees. [accessed 7 Dec 2023].

American Society for Horticultural Science. 2023b. Education publication awards. https://cdn.ymaws.com/ashs.org/resource/resmgr/award_winners/pub-education.pdf. [accessed 7 Dec 2023].

American Society for Horticultural Science. 2023c. HortTechnology and HortScience, open access. https://journals.ashs.org/horttech/view/journals/horttech/horttech-overview.xml?tab_body=all-issues-toc. and https://journals.ashs.org/hortsci/view/journals/hortsci/hortsci-overview.xml?tab_body=all-issues-toc. [accessed 7 Dec 2023].

American Society for Horticultural Science. 2023d. ASHS award winners. https://ashs.org/search/custom.asp?id=4304. [accessed 7 Dec 2023].

Batjer LP. 1966. Horticultural science and its application (Presidential Address). Proc Am Soc Hortic Sci. 87:575–585.

Fretz TA. 1992. Reaffirming our land-grant tradition. HortScience. 27:954–957. https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTSCI.27.9.954.

Kelly JF. 1990. *HortTechnology*, ASHS' new outreach journal scheduled for 1991 debut. ASHS Newsletter. 6(7):8.

Newman SE, Ellsbury SH. 1991. Increasing library skills of horticulture students. HortTechnology. 1(1):126–128. https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTTECH.1.1.126.