

S471 SOIL SCIENCE RESEARCH AWARD COMMITTEE

A. Status: Special Committee

B. Composition and Tenure:

The award committee is composed of seven persons including the Chair. Term of service is two years for committee members. The Chair, usually a second-year committee member, serves a one-year term.

C. Functions:

1. To encourage nominations for this award.
2. To become familiar with the guidelines and procedures for this award and to be responsible for seeing that all nominations fulfill the required criteria of eligibility for the award.
3. To objectively evaluate nominations and to select from among those nominated the most outstanding nominee for the award.

D. Procedure:

1. The SSSA Headquarters Office distributes the nominations to the committee members and advises them of the scoring or ranking procedure to be followed. The Chair transmits any special instructions to the members.
2. The Chair determines, with guidance from the committee if needed, the eligibility of each nomination.
3. The Chair activates and works with the committee on any special charges sent to the committee by the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee.
4. The Chair submits an annual report of the committee as requested by the Society.

E. Presidential Responsibilities:

The SSSA President:

1. Appoints new members to replace those whose terms expire and appoints the Chair of the committee.
2. Cooperates with the committee in its activities, as appropriate or in response to need.
3. Notifies the committee directly of all deadlines on award selection, annual report, etc.

F. Description of Award:

The Soil Science Research Award is presented in recognition of excellence in soil science research. The award consists of a certificate and a monetary award.

G. Award Criteria:

The Principal Criteria for choosing the recipient are demonstration of unusual creativity; excellence in reasoning ability and/or technical skill; originality and significance of research contributions to basic soil science.

H. Format for Nominations:

Award Guidelines including format for nominations are available on the SSSA awards webpage at: www.soils.org/awards .

I. Eligibility of Nominations:

Nominations for this award are accepted only from individual active members of the Society. Members of the Executive Committee and members of the award committee are not eligible to submit nominations.

J. Eligibility of Nominees:

Membership in the Society is not required for this award. The award is intended, however, for persons with active years ahead. The contribution on which the nomination is based must have been made within the past ten (10) years.

K. Team Nominations:

Nomination of a team is acceptable, provided the following criteria are met--(a) at least one member of the team is a soil scientist; (b) where other disciplines are represented on the team, the soil scientist must have contributed 50% or more to the team effort; and (c) only publications where all team members are authors, or honors and awards received by the team, may be listed; individual efforts must be omitted from the nomination form; (d) only publications dated within, or relevant honors and awards received within the last 10 years, may be included on the nomination form.

L. Scoring or Ranking Procedure:

Nominations are ranked by all committee members. One-half of the total number of award nominees (x) are ranked 1 thru x with the rest of the nominees given x + 1. Each member's ranking is conveyed in writing to the Chair, who totals the points received by each nominee. The award recipient is the nominee receiving the lowest score. The award need not be presented in a given year if it is judged that nominees do not meet the criteria.

M. Revising Guidelines or Procedures:

The award committee may recommend changes or revisions relative to criteria, description, selection process of recipients, etc., for this award. All recommendations must be approved by the SSSA Board of Directors or the Executive Committee before said recommendations may be implemented. Recommendations may be submitted through the President or directly to the Board of Directors or Executive Committee.

N. Ties and a Deadlocked Committee:

1. The Award Committee is expected to make every effort to break tie votes.
2. If the Award Committee cannot break the tie vote, the Award Committee Chair will vote to break the tie.