

ROBERT MARTIN

GRADUATED FROM EDGAR HIGH SCHOOL IN 1971

After graduation, Robert (Bob) Martin, attended the UW-Marathon County Campus and UW-Madison where he obtained a B.Sc. in Forestry and a Ph.D. in Plant Pathology. He then began his research career working on virus diseases of berry crops (blackberry, blueberry, grapes, raspberry and strawberry), initially as a postdoctoral fellow working at Oregon State University in Corvallis.

Bob then worked as a research scientist with Agriculture Canada in Vancouver for 13 years. Bob returned to Corvallis in 1995, working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture until retirement at the end of 2019. He was the research leader for the USDA horticultural crops research unit for 15 years. Bob identified 38 new viruses in berry crops and worked with collaborators and growers throughout the U.S, and internationally on managing these viruses. He worked on trade issues related to viruses in berry crops in Argentina, Chile, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, South Africa and the European Union. Bob also co-taught courses in virology at University of British Columbia and Oregon State University and taught several international short courses on berry viruses. He was the lead in the development of the National Clean Plant Network for Berries. He has received multiple professional and industry awards for his contributions in application of research to disease management, including Best Scientist under 40 from the Canadian Phytopathological Society and Fellow of the American Phytopathological Society.

Bob, his wife, three children and six grandchildren all currently live in Oregon. They spent a year abroad in Australia on a sabbatical leave from Agriculture Canada. Bob enjoys travel, hiking, woodworking, wine making, reading, photography and cooking. Bob was a boy scout leader for 14 years, first in Canada and then in the U.S. Scouting highlights included seeing boys develop into young men and leading three week-long backpacking trips in wilderness areas.