

Dr. Carl Whitcomb grew up on rented farms and at the edge of a small town in Southeast Kansas. He received a BS degree from Kansas State (1964) and MS and Ph D from Iowa State (1966 and 1969). He was Professor of Horticulture at the University of Florida [67-72], then Oklahoma State [72-85] before starting Lacebark Inc. in 1986. Lacebark Inc is a private research facility with focus on all aspects of plant growth in containers and field. Some examples include; Containers designed to improve root systems, stop root circling and speed landscape establishment. Effects of water chemistry on plant growth. Plant breeding of woody trees and shrubs. He invented and patented Micromax micronutrients in 1980 and has been awarded 26 additional patents with 4 pending. He has written four books. Plant Production in Containers II, Production of Landscape Plants II in the Field, Establishment and Maintenance of Landscape Plants II and Know It and Grow It III.

He introduced the first crapemyrtle with true cherry red flowers, named Dynamite® in 1996. The first crapemyrtle with dramatic wine new foliage and shrill pink flowers followed and was named Pink Velour®. His latest and most novel crapemyrtle creation named Rhapsody in Pink® has near purple new foliage and re-blooms continuously all summer because it is sterile and new flower buds form on old flower panicles. For more information go to www.lacebarkinc.com or www.rootmaker.com .

Carl Whitcomb – brief biographical sketch

Dr. Carl Whitcomb grew up on rented farms in Southeast Kansas. He received his BS degree at Kansas State University in 1964, MS at Iowa State in 1966 and PhD at Iowa State in 1969. He was assistant professor of Ornamental Horticulture at the University of Florida 1967 – 1972 and assistant to full professor at Oklahoma State University 1972-1985. President Lacebark Inc. 1986-present as Consultant, Author, Researcher, Lecturer.

Dr. Whitcomb has written four books:
Know It and Grow It III, a guide to the identification and use of landscape plants (1996)
Plant Production in Containers II (2003)
Production of Landscape Plants II (in the field) (2001)
Establishment and Maintenance of Landscape Plants II (2006)

He has published over 400 papers on an array of research topics and has presented hundreds of talks at professional meetings.

Dr. Whitcomb currently holds 26 US Patents and has 7 pending along with 19 registered trademarks.

Some of his most notable inventions are:

Micromax® micronutrients – licensed to the Scotts Co. and sold globally.

RootMaker® air-root-pruning containers – licensed to RootMaker Products Co.

RootBuilder® air-root-pruning containers – licensed to RootMaker Products Co.

RootTrapper® root-tip-trapping containers – licensed to RootMaker Products Co.

Dynamite® cherry red crapemyrtle
Red Rocket® cherry red crapemyrtle
Pink Velour® crapemyrtle
Tightwad Red® crapemyrtle, a sterile true dwarf
Easy Street® lacebark elm with exceptional wood strength.
City Slicker® river birch with white bark.

Dr. Whitcomb has received numerous awards, most notably: 1977 Award from Southern Nursery, Assoc. for Excellence in Research, 1983 Chadwick Award by Amer. Assoc. Nurserymen “To an Exceptional Educator”, 1986 Wight Memorial Award by Southern Nursery, Assoc. for Outstanding Contributions to the Nursery Industry, 1987 Outstanding Industry Person Award by Florida Nursery. Assoc., 1988 Award of Merit by Garden Writers Assoc. of Amer., 1993 named Fellow of Int. Plant Prop. Soc., 2000 Sidney Meadows Award of Merit by Int. Plant Propagators Society, 2003 Gold Medal Award by the Oklahoma Horticulture Society. 2006 recipient of the Henry Wallace Award for Significant Contributions to Agriculture, by Iowa State University. Numerous other awards.