

Buck Godwin (1928-2008)

It is with great sadness that the family of Buck "BJ" Godwin announces his passing on October 23, 2008 at the age of 79. Buck will be lovingly remembered by his beloved wife of 53 years, Nola, and their four children, Laura, Hugh (Maxine), Neil (Jennifer), and Karen (Eric). He will also be sadly missed by his seven grandchildren, Brett, Nora, Katelyn, Jenna, Rachel, Ben and Jonah as well as his sister Jean (Bazel) Driver, brother Chip, sister-in-law Yvonne Godwin, sister-in-law Doris (Bob) Tipper, six nephews and three nieces. Buck was predeceased by his brother Perry, and parents Jack and Gertrude.



Buck was born in Big Valley, Alberta and later moved to the Sangudo area to homestead with his parents and siblings. He earned a diploma in Agriculture from the Vermilion School of Agriculture (1950), and a BSc in Agriculture from the University of Alberta (1954), majoring in Horticulture. He furthered his education with a BEd degree from the University of Alberta in 1965. Buck was an inspiring instructor in horticulture, plant science, and farm management since 1954, first at Fairview College 1954 - 1958, then Vermilion College 1958 - 1963 and finally at Olds College 1963 - 1987.

Buck started the horticulture programme at Olds College in 1963 and continued to lead its development until his retirement in 1987. Both the herbarium and the entomology collection at Olds College were begun by Buck. Many a student has passed through Olds College and received a thorough education in insect identification and pest management. Buck's contribution to entomology education was recognised by the Entomological Society of Canada through the awarding of the inaugural Criddle Award in 1981.

His love of hands-on teaching continued after his retirement from the college when he and Nola established their Alberta Supernaturals floral business where they continued to open their farm, home and hearts to numerous students, colleagues, customers, neighbours, friends and family. He loved his family, sharing his knowledge, and working in his fields, whether it was raining or under his favourite "wall-to-wall blue sky". He viewed every day as a good day.

- Ken Fry
Olds College, Olds, AB