

OBITUARY

José Geraldo Barbosa

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Professor José Geraldo Barbosa graduated in Agronomy in 1977 and completed his Master of Science Degree in Plant Breeding in 1980, both degrees at the Federal University of Viçosa, Minas Gerais, Brazil. In the same year he became a faculty member invited by Professor Luiz Carlos Lopes. In 2012, Professor José Geraldo became a Full Professor, at Federal University of Viçosa for the Department of Agronomy.

His high passion for teaching Floriculture was witnessed by thousands of Agronomy undergraduate students and Plant Science graduate students who miss his organized, fruitful, pleasant and joyful classes on the cut flower cultivation, including roses, chrysanthemums, gladiolus, lilies, gerbera, also on substrates, mineral nutrition, ornamental plant propagation, physiology, flowering control and flower post-harvest physiology topics. Master of Science, Doctoral and Scientific Initiation internships degrees were completed by 90 students under Professor José Geraldo's academic advisory at Agronomy Department.

From his Doctoral Degree at Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul in 1996 supervised by Professor Atelene Normann Kämpf, major in mineral nutrition and hydroponic cultivation of chrysanthemums, Professor José Geraldo published the textbook "*Crisântemos: Produção de mudas, cultivo para corte de flor, cultivo em vaso e cultivo hidropônico*".

Several Brazilian floriculture professors, researchers, agronomists and former graduate students were invited by Professor José Geraldo to co-author the often-cited text books: "*Produção comercial de rosas*", "*Crisântemo: do plantio à colheita*", "*Propagação de plantas ornamentais*" and "*Palma de Santa Rita (Gladiolo): Produção comercial de flores e bulbos*".

Professor José Geraldo published hundreds of articles in national and international scientific journals. He was vice-president of the Brazilian Society of Floriculture and Ornamental Plants, Associate member of the International Society for Horticultural Science, Head of the Agronomy Department of the Federal University of Viçosa, and manager of the Floriculture Teaching, Research and Extension Unit of the Agronomy Department. He taught countless floriculture courses, organized scientific events, attended numerous technical and scientific events, provided technical consultancy to flower growers markedly during the traditional Farmer's Week of the Federal University of Viçosa, as well as in Barbacena-MG and many other Brazilian cities.

Also, Professor José Geraldo received the recognitions as The Floriculture Distinguished Researcher by the Brazilian Society of Floriculture and Ornamental Plants (2017), and the CNPq (National Council for Scientific and Technological Development) Productivity Scholarship Level 1. In April 2022, Professor José Geraldo retired, after 42 years working in teaching, research and extension of Floriculture with ethics, integrity, and a smile on his face. Unfortunately, Professor José Geraldo passed away on August 25, 2023.

His tireless dedication to Floriculture, his sense of humor, joy and good memories will always be remembered. We miss Professor José Geraldo every day.

With longing and gratitude, Professor!

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