

The Class of 1983 Selects... Orlando S. Pride (Class of 1925)



Gardeners and landscapers in climates like our own will be eternally grateful for the talents and labors of "Lanny" Pride. A 1928 Penn State graduate with a major in landscape architecture, Pride applied his horticultural abilities in developing hybrid strains of perennials such as American Holly that were hardy enough to withstand freezing winter temperatures.

Pride was honored for his achievements in 1969 as one of six Penn State Distinguished Graduates, at which time Pride met longtime football coach, Joe Paterno. Seven years before his death in 1983, Pride named a hardy white hybrid rhododendron for the popular Paterno. In the past three years, the Joe Paterno Rhododendron has gained widespread commercial success, prompting his son, Lanny Pride, Jr., to write, "It seems after death, he has achieved something that had eluded him in life . . . a commercially successful rhododendron!"

Pride also became internationally known for creating hardier forms of azaleas. The beautiful azaleas that once graced the senior high campus were Pride's gift to his alma mater.