



2024 Nomination Form

Nominating a Soil Champion

The Soil Champion award is an annual award that recognizes strong advocates of sustainable soil management. Individuals from one of two general groups can be nominated:

- Those engaged in practical agriculture in developing, using and promoting management that contributes to the sustainable productivity of the soil; or,
- Research or extension professionals whose work demonstrates a commitment to advancing soil health and productive sustainability.

The Soil Champion nominees will be reviewed by and the winner declared by the selection committee and announced at the OSCIA Annual Meeting in early February each year.

An individual may nominate him/herself or be nominated by a third party. If you are nominating someone else, please ensure he/she is informed of your intentions and is a willing participant.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for the Soil Champion Award, an individual must be a resident of Ontario and have contributed to soil management in a way that improves soil health, and supports sustainable crop production and is environmentally friendly.

Practices that may be considered include:

- Minimal use of tillage – primary tillage is not eligible
- Protect and enhance organic matter, soil biota and soil aggregation
- Efficient and careful use of nutrients
- Effective surface water management
- Windbreaks and land retirement
- The advancement of science and advocacy for soil care.

To typically accomplish these objectives in most cropping systems, full-surface non-inversion tillage must be limited to a two-inch (51 mm) depth or less, and practiced no more than once every three cropping years. No primary tillage across the full working width of the equipment would be permitted.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS NOVEMBER 1, 2023



Grassroots Innovation
Since 1939

Nomination Form

Please complete this form and forward it to OSCIA with supporting information

Instructions:

Nominations are evaluated based on the information provided on the nomination form. Please send all applicable information to ensure a fair assessment for the exceptional work of the nominee. For additional information concerning the Soil Champion Award please contact the Office Coordinator, Kathleen Pentland at kpentland@ontariosoilcrop.org or 519-826-5405.

Contact information of individual being nominated:

Name	_____	Town/City	_____
Address	_____		
County/District	_____	Postal Code	_____
Email	_____	Phone	_____

Nominator's contact information (if different from above):

Name	_____	Town/City	_____
Address	_____		
County/District	_____	Postal Code	_____
Email	_____	Phone	_____

NOMINEE INFORMATION

This section is where the selection committee will learn about the individual being nominated for the Soil Champion Award, and what they have accomplished. It is composed of three parts: **A.** Background, **B.** Accomplishments/Activities, and **C.** Documentation/Supporting Material.

A. BACKGROUND. Please tell us about the individual being nominated.

1. Where does the nominee live and work?	
2. Describe soil type, topography, etc.	

A. BACKGROUND. Please tell us about the individual being nominated.

3. What is the nature of their work?	
4. When did this work begin - how did it evolve?	
5. What prompted the nominee's interest in soil care and soil care advocacy?	

B. ACCOMPLISHMENTS/ACTIVITIES.

Please provide information, as appropriate, in each of the categories:

1. Advocacy for superior soil management (scored out of 20 points)

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing and Social Media:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speaking at Meetings:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hosting Visitors:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Involvement in groups/ organizations that promote soil care:	

(cont'd) B. ACCOMPLISHMENTS/ACTIVITIES.

Please provide information, as appropriate, in each of the categories:

2. Soil Management Practices Used: (scored out of 40 points)

a) Tillage and Planting Practices:

• What is practiced for the various crops grown?	
• Percentage of total acres?	
• When (time of year)?	

b) Crops:

• Type(s):	
• Rotations:	
• Residue Management Techniques:	

c) Cover Crops:

• Type(s):	
• Management:	

d) Nutrient Management:

• Manure:	
• Commercial Fertilizer:	

e) Other Practices:

• Structural Erosion Control Measures:	
• Windbreaks:	
• Fragile Land Retirement:	
• Other	

(cont'd) B. ACCOMPLISHMENTS/ACTIVITIES.

Please provide information, as appropriate, in each of the categories:

3. Can the practices used, promoted, researched have broad application in Ontario? (scored out of 10 points)

4. Innovative work, such testing ideas, practices, and technology.

Please provide examples (scored out of 10 points)

a) Ideas:

b) Practices:

c) Technology:

C. DOCUMENTATION/SUPPORTING MATERIAL (scored out of 20 points)

Submission of photographs, videos, articles/stories, field maps, report summaries and other documents to support the nomination is strongly encouraged. To be considered, supporting material must be included or URL links provided with the nomination form. Please note accompanying documents will not be returned.

1. Documentation and assessment of practices tried/used/promoted:

a) Documented changes over time in soil health, crop yields, etc.:	
b) Side-By-Side Evaluation:	
c) On-Farm Research - Process/ Protocols:	
d) Co-operation with Researchers - Data Produced/ Conclusions:	

2. Supporting material included (please list documents submitted or provide URL links):

a) Reports:	
b) Photos:	
c) Videos:	
d) Magazine/ Newspaper Articles:	
e) Other:	

CONFIRMATION AND AGREEMENT

The winner of the Soil Champion Award agrees to cooperate in related communication activities that will be coordinated by OSCIA that includes receiving award at the OSCIA Annual Meeting in early February, story profiled in newsletters and farm media, imagery, etc.

In an effort to inform participants and to promote responsible soil management and awareness through communications and imagery the winner agrees that:

- Information in the completed nomination package, imagery provided by the nominee and that generated by OSCIA, are the sole property of OSCIA and OSCIA may protect or dispose of any or all such rights in any manner whatsoever;
- OSCIA may responsibly use the information for any non-commercial, not for profit purpose including, but not limited to, publication, display, broadcast, exhibition, promotion, advertising, art or illustration and may revise or otherwise alter the imagery by electronic and other means. The imagery may be used in media including, but not limited to: print, video, DVD, CD-ROM, and Internet.

Please check the appropriate statement:

Where the individual completing the nomination form is the nominee:

- By submitting a nomination form for the Soil Champion Award, I confirm that I meet the eligibility criteria for the award and that I have read, understand, and agree to comply to the general rules of the award.

Where the individual completing the nomination form is not the nominee:

- By submitting a nomination form for the Soil Champion Award on behalf of another individual, I confirm that I have obtained the consent of that individual, which written consent is included with this nomination form, and which consent states:

I understand that I am being nominated for the Soil Champion Award. I consent to the nomination and confirm that I meet the eligibility criteria for the award and that I have read, understand and agree to comply with the general rules of the award.

Signature of individual submitting the nomination

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

How to submit a nomination:

The nomination form may be downloaded from the website. Completed forms and supporting material can be sent to kpentland@ontariosoilcrop.org, or mailed to Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, 1-367 Woodlawn Road West, Guelph, ON N1H 7K9. All forms of submission will receive a confirmation of receipt.