



Dr. Julian Sauls

DEC 8, 1943 - JUN 20, 2025



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Dr. Julian Sauls

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Dr. Julian W. Sauls, 81, entered eternal rest on Friday, June 20, 2025, at Valley Baptist Medical Center in Harlingen. Dr. Sauls was born on December 8, 1943, in Tylertown, Mississippi. He spent his childhood in Mississippi and Louisiana but was a resident of Weslaco for 45 years. He earned a BS and MS in Horticulture from Louisiana State University and a doctorate in Fruit Crops from the University of Florida. He was the Extension Citrus Specialist at Texas A&M University's Agricultural Extension Service (later known as AgriLife Extension Service) from 1980 until his retirement in 2011, after 33 years of dedicated and meritorious service. As a student, his outstanding scholarship and passion for learning allowed him to skip a grade and graduate as valedictorian of his high school. He continued to excel in college, gaining admission to the honor societies of Alpha Zeta, Sigma Xi, Gamma Sigma Delta and Scabbard and Blade, playing baseball and basketball, and training as an ROTC cadet. After college, he lived and worked in Honduras and Mexico for two years before moving to Fort Worth, Texas in 1973, where he served as County Extension Horticulturist for Tarrant County, helped coordinate the Master Gardener Program, and hosted an educational TV show. In 1975, he returned to Florida to work for the Florida Extension Service, then moved permanently back to Texas in 1980. As Extension Citrus Specialist at Texas A&M, he developed and organized the Extension citrus education program, disseminating information to growers, working with industry representatives and researchers, and conducting research himself at his own groves and nurseries. Over his career, he authored or co-authored over 100 publications, led the team that produced the Texas Citrus Handbook, created the Texas Citrus and Subtropical Fruits website, and published a monthly newsletter, Valley Citrus Notes. Some of his other accomplishments included serving as Director, Secretary, Vice President, and President of the Edinburg Citrus Association Board, of which he was a member from 1994 until his retirement in 2024. He also served as a



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member of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Texas Pest & Disease Management Corporation, judged the Texas Citrus Fiesta Youth Show and the Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show FH and FFA Shop Division, and testified as an expert witness for DuPont in cases pertaining to citrus. In 2006, he was honored with the Arthur T. Potts Award by the Rio Grande Valley Horticultural Society. In 2022, he was crowned King Citrus at the annual Texas Citrus Fiesta in recognition of his substantial contributions to the citrus industry. In his personal life, he enjoyed fishing, hunting, archery, golf, bowling, softball, crossword puzzles, reading, watching Westerns, tending the orchard that was his life's passion, and spending quality time with his family. He was a world traveler, avid coin collector, Boy Scout leader, music fan, cat lover, and immeasurably loved husband, father, brother, and uncle. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Sandra Y. Sauls; his children Jillian M. Sauls and Michael J. Sauls; his sisters Darlene Dodson and Deborah Brouillette. He was preceded in death by his parents, Mary Rosabell Alford and Bruce L. Alford; his sisters Karon Sue Alford Herring and Ina Faye Alford Bodi; his brothers Bruce L. Alford II and Gary M. Alford. A service is scheduled for 11 a.m. on July 11, 2025, at McCaleb Funeral Home. Interment will follow at 12 p.m. at Weslaco Cemetery, 1001 S Illinois Ave.



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous shared a **Video**.



August 7 at 4:24 PM



Irrigation-Mart posted:

Irrigation-Mart purchased Eco-Friendly Memorial Trees for Dr. Julian Sauls

July 11 at 1:26 PM



Lone Star Citrus Growers posted:

Lone Star Citrus Growers purchased Dearly Beloved for Dr. Julian Sauls

July 11 at 1:26 PM



Edinburg Citrus Association posted:

Edinburg Citrus Association purchased Splendid Life Spray for Dr. Julian Sauls

July 10 at 10:23 AM



Jillian Sauls posted:

You were the best dad. I love you.

July 7 at 12:50 AM



George Ray McEachern posted:

Julina and I were graduated students at LSU under Professor P.L. Hawthorne doing our research on Louisiana strawberries on the campus Hill Farm. Julian lived in the new "Shed" which was nice including a shower room. We would all walk to the LSU football games as a group and sit in the Free student section. We also carried a sheet of clear greenhouse plastic in case of rain. Julian was very intelligent and made the highest grades. He upgraded to U of Florida for his PhD; where he learned a great deal about tropical plants. Yes, we will miss Julian and we will all get together again in our After Life. George Ray McEachern

July 5 at 1:05 AM



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Lisa Whittlesey posted:

I met Julian when I was a brand new Extension horticulture employee. He was so knowledgeable and kind. I also fondly remember his sense of humor, laugh and smile when we were at Extension horticulture events. Sending prayers to his family.

June 28 at 10:00 AM



Veronica Ancona posted:

I met Dr. Julian Sauls about 10 years ago when I got into citrus. Always great to have him stop in my office to talk and share stories about citrus, work and life. He will be missed. May God grant him eternal peace.

June 28 at 8:52 AM



Lou Garza posted:

Please accept my deepest condolences over the loss of Dr. Julian Sauls. I offer my heartfelt support and friendship during this difficult time. He was always so proud of his kids. I recall him sharing his thoughts, expertise and sense of humor. Rest in peace Dr. Sauls. 🙏"

June 26 at 9:38 PM



Kranthi Mandadi posted:

My deepest condolences to Dr. Julian Saul's family, and may his soul rest in peace.

June 26 at 7:08 PM



Juan Anciso shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Julian was a world renowned citrus expert and a great colleague in Extension. Our deepest condolences to his family and friends during this time from his Extension family that knew him for so many years. Rest in Peace Julian



June 26 at 4:07 PM



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Jose Luis Silva shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



My name is Jose Luis Silva and Manager for Edinburg Citrus Grove Care. I have known Julian for many years since he was at the Texas A&M Agri Life Extension. I really got to know Julian even more when I started to work for Edinburg Citrus Grove Care back in 2018. I looked after his grove and with his knowledge and mine we were able to make good agronomic decisions together. He went to his farm every morning where he did his crossword puzzles and also did work on his grove like disking or mowing or irrigating. I would stop by every time I saw him there and talked to him for quite a while until I had to go. He used to tell me stories about his past when he worked in Costa Rica and other places and always enjoyed hearing him telling me all his past experiences. He was very knowledgeable in just about every area of agriculture and learned from him a lot. He trusted me as much as I trusted him. He would give me the green light to do whatever I recommended in regard to keeping the orchard clean. Julian will always be in my heart and I will miss you not only as a good friend but as my mentor as well.

June 24 at 6:10 PM



Tj Flowers shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



I met Dr. Julian Sauls 20 years ago through various board positions within the Texas citrus industry but I really got to know him over the last 5 years, through the King's Association and our time with the Texas Citrus Fiesta. Dr. Sauls was such a wealth of knowledge, a great storyteller, and beloved by his court. He was a unique combination of "rough around the edges" and yet easy to be around. Ever the conversationalist, he could weave both the provocative and the serious simultaneously. All the while leaving a little room for comedic relief! Cheers to you, Dr. Julian Sauls! You will be missed...Godspeed, sir.

June 23 at 2:36 PM



Judy Kidd Hickerson posted:

My deepest sympathies to family and friends. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Julian was a very kind man and a very good friend to my family. May Julian Rest in Eternal Peace.

June 23 at 11:29 AM



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Judy Kidd Hickerson posted:

My deepest sympathies to family and friends. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Julian was a very kind man and a very good friend to my family. May Julian Rest in Eternal Peace.

June 22 at 8:21 PM



Anonymous shared a Video.

August 7 at 4:24 PM



Juan Anciso shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

June 26 at 4:07 PM

Orchard Floor Management
Julian W. Sauls, Ph. D.
Professor and Extension Horticulturist
Texas Cooperative Extension

Broadleaf weeds, grasses and vines in a citrus orchard compete for available and applied water and plant nutrients, as well as for light. Weeds can interfere with irrigation and harvest operations; some weeds may contribute to pest management problems, while others may host beneficial arthropods that can aid pest management. In addition, weeds on the orchard floor can increase potential cold damage to fruit and trees.

Young citrus trees do not compete well with other vegetation. Consequently, complete weed control around young trees must be practiced throughout the orchard establishment years in order to promote optimal growth and development of the trees. Mature trees aid orchard floor management by shading the ground beneath the trees, thereby restricting the





Jose Luis Silva shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

June 24 at 6:10 PM

Hard Floor Management Julian W. Sauls, PhD and Extension Horticulturists at the University of California Citrus Cooperative Extension

In a citrus orchard compete for space, as well as for light. Weeds can be managed; some weeds may contribute to host beneficial arthropods that in the orchard floor can increase

as well with other vegetation. In young trees must be practiced in order to promote optimum growth. Future trees aid orchard floor management. Weeds near young trees, thereby restricting the



Media

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Tj Flowers shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

June 23 at 2:36 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Dr. Julian by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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