

JOHN R. THOMAS: BIOGRAPHY

John R. Thomas is a native South Texan who grew up in a ranching family in Eagle Lake, Texas. Thomas received his B.A in Business Administration from Sam Houston State University, and in 1971 became a partner in the family's cattle and farm operation.

Combining his planting expertise, Texas ingenuity, and business knowledge, Thomas initiated a turf seeding company in 1971 and developed it into one of the largest companies of its kind in the South. While seeding turf and native grasses in five states, developers and landscape architects asked the question: "*Why not Wildflowers?*"

In response to this, Thomas formed Wildseed Farms in 1983 and invented two machines to produce the results he dreamed of: the J-Thom 42 Wildseeder and Vacuum Seed Retriever (VSR). Mr. Thomas has over 1,500 acres of wildflower production in Texas and is considered one of the leading experts on wildflowers in the nation. He is actively used as a consultant to many state highway departments including Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Alabama, Florida and Ohio.

John R. Thomas was selected as the 2009 Entrepreneur of the Year representing the State of Texas and was awarded this honor by Newt Gingrich in Washington D.C

The Wildseed Farms story has been highlighted in National Geographic, Wall Street Journal, Texas Highways, Southern Living and in numerous national trade magazines.

John lives in Fredericksburg, Texas with his wife Marilyn.