

## Harold Bradford Tukey, Sr. (1896-1971)

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On November 9, 1971, the horticultural world lost one of its great leaders, when Harold Bradford Tukey, Sr., passed away in Boca Rotan, Florida, at the age of 75.

He was born in Berwyn, Illinois. He received his B.S. in 1918 and his M.S. in 1920 from the University of Illinois; and his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.

Harold Tukey began his illustrious horticultural career in 1920 at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, at Geneva. It was here that, for the next 25 years, he made many important research contributions in the areas of fruit tree propagation and rootstocks, and collaborated with C. L. Hamner in the pioneer work which first demonstrated the herbacidal activity of 2,4-D.

He left Geneva in 1945 to become Head of the Department of Horticulture at Michigan State University, a position he retained until his retirement in 1962. Continuing his research activities, he collaborated with R. F. Carlson, C. L. Hamner, M. J. Bukovac, S. H. Wittwer and others in the areas of fruit rootstocks, growth regulators, and radioactive isotopes.

Harold Tukey was very active in many horticultural organizations both at home and abroad. His first important office was that of Secretary-Treasurer of the American Society for Horticultural Science (1925-1948); and was elected its president in 1946. He also served as vice-president of the International Society for Horticultural Science (1959-1962), and as its president (1962-1963).

Harold Tukey was among the handful who provided the American Pomological Society, during the very lean years between the two world wars, with the very vital support and leadership it needed in order to survive. He served A. P. S. on the Executive Board (1925-48); as chairman of the Wilder Award Committee (1942-56, 1959-62); and as president (1950-52).

Harold Tukey distinguished himself as an editor and author. He was editor of the annual proceedings of the American Society for Horticultural Science for 23 years, beginning in 1927. While at Geneva, he joined the editorial staff of the *Rural New Yorker* (1923-60). He was an associate editor of the *American Fruit Grower* magazine from 1948 until he died. In 1967, five years after his retirement from Michigan State, he edited the proceedings of the XVII International Horticultural Congress. He edited, contributed to, and wrote a series of outstanding books. First, he collaborated with U. P. Hedrick and others on the classic, "Pears of New York," published in 1921. His "The Pear and Its Culture" appeared in 1928. In 1954, he edited "Plant Regulators in Agriculture." His last book was "Dwarfed Fruit Trees" in 1964.

Some of the numerous honors that were bestowed upon Harold Tukey are as follows:

Jackson Dawson Medal, Mass. Hort. Society (1948); Marshall P. Wilder Medal, American Pomological Society (1956); N. J. Colman Award, American Assn. of Nurserymen (1957); Hall of Fame Award, N. Y. State Assn. of Nurserymen (1962); Gold Medal of Honor, Garden Club of America (1967); Liberty Hyde Bailey Gold Medal, Amer. Hort. Society (1967).