

John R. Large, 1901–1971

Phares Decker



J. R. Large, Emeritus, University of Florida, was born December 22, 1901, at Ottawa, Ill., and died at his home, Monticello, Fla., September 9, 1971. He grew to manhood on an irrigated farm in South Idaho. He attended Idaho Technical Institute in Pocatello, and received his B.S. degree from Washington State College in

1926, and the M.S. degree from the University of Arkansas in 1928, with a major in Plant Pathology and a minor in Botany at each institution. He had additional training in Plant Pathology at Iowa State University, 1928-1929 and in 1938.

He taught General Botany for two years at George Washington University, Washington, D.C., 1929-31. He was appointed Junior Plant Pathologist, USDA, Pecan Investigations, Albany, Ga., and in 1941 was transferred, as Assistant Plant Pathologist, to Tung Investigations, Bogulusa, La. He joined the research staff of the University of Florida in 1949 as Associate Plant Pathologist, Pecan Investigations, Monticello, Fla., and served until July 1, 1967, when he retired to pursue some of his neglected interests.

Mr. Large, a productive investigator, was author or coauthor of 70 scientific research publications. He collaborated with J. C. Woodruff in preparing a book entitled "Tree Nuts, Their Production and Products" (Vol. II), Avis Publishing Co., 1967. He published 14 papers on the diseases of tung, including "Rough bark – a virus disease of tung", "Parasitic diseases of tung", and "Canker of tung caused by *Phyalospora rhodina*", but his most worthy contributions were in the control of pecan diseases.

Cooperating with J. B. Demaree, he tested the effectiveness of zinc sulphate and iron sulphate for the

control of pecan rosette, a troublesome disease of pecans. He sprayed Alley pecan trees with 2 lb./100, copper sulphate in 1933, and observed no injury. This led to the "low-lime-bordeaux" which became the standard pecan spray from 1936 to 1954. In an effort to achieve thorough coverage of pecan trees, which was most difficult with hydraulic ground machines, he was the first to use an airplane (1952) and a helicopter (1961) to effectively control pecan scab.

John was always interested in the problems of the pecan growers, whether those with a single tree in their yard or an 100-acre block. He used all types of spray machines available, with all new fungicides as they became available in an effort to inform the individual grower of the best operation available to meet his needs. He had a vital part in proving that new fungicides, such as dodine and Duter, could replace the hard-to-handle "low-lime-bordeaux" as effective disease control sprays for pecans. He was a keen observer, and was quick to report that dodine sprayed on young developing leaves of the Moore variety caused severe burn, whereas on certain other varieties, no injury occurred.

He found that pecan embryo rot was associated with heavy rains following a prolonged drought. This led to increased irrigation now used by growers. Much of his work was in cooperation with A. M. Phillips, pecan entomologist, in developing economical and effective disease and insect control programs with the growers.

Mr. Large was a member of American Men of Science since 1944, "World Who's Who in Commerce and Industry", and "Who Knows and What" since 1966. An active member of The American Phytopathological Society, he was also active in the affairs of the Southern Division.

John is survived by his wife, Ruth Traux Large, two married daughters, and four granddaughters.