

## Arthur H. Eddins, 1893-1974

Phares Decker



Dr. A. H. Eddins, Emeritus professor and former Head of the Agricultural Research Center, Hastings, Florida, died October 17, 1974.

A native of Keytesville, Missouri he received the B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Missouri. He did his graduate studies at Iowa State University, specializing in

botany, plant genetics, and Plant Pathology, earning his Ph.D. degree in 1928. That same year he was appointed Assistant Plant Pathologist at the University of Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, Gainesville, where he was engaged in the study and control of corn diseases.

Dr. Eddins held the position of pathologist in charge of the Hastings Potato Investigations Laboratory from 1934 until his retirement as professor emeritus in 1963. During his 35 years as a research plant pathologist, he solved a number of problems in the production of potatoes and cabbage. His discovery of the seed-borne characteristics of bacterial ring rot of potatoes resulted in a nation-wide certification program of seed potatoes which eliminated the disease in the Hastings area. He also discovered a new disease of Irish potatoes, corky ringspot and introduced disease-resistant varieties. He introduced the high-yielding Sebago potato to the Hastings area which

increased the average yields 40 percent. Estimates have been that this contribution, alone, was worth many millions of dollars to the Hastings potato growers. He developed successful control methods for a number of cabbage diseases including black rot, cabbage yellows, and downy mildew.

Dr. Eddins served many professional organizations. He was Associate Editor of *Phytopathology*, a member of the Executive Committee for the Potato Association of America, Vice President of the Florida Horticultural Society and was made honorary life member of the American Potato Society. He was well known in his profession and received many honors. He received an award from the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association for outstanding research. He received international recognition as an authority on potatoes and was invited to serve as a technical consultant to the government of Cuba in 1943 and the government of Venezuela in 1961.

He was very active in his community, holding membership in the Walker-Browning Post, American Legion, Charter Member of the Hastings Rotary Club. He was a member of Grace United Methodist Church and served on the Executive Board for many years. He was a veteran of World War I.

Survivors include his widow, Nada; a daughter, Mrs. William T. Brown; and two grandsons, David Turner and Alan Eddins Brown. A. H. Eddins was a helpful friend to all who came to know him.