



Sodus Field Laboratory at Cornell University, 1910.



President 1916
E. F. Smith

1916 Devastating stem rust epidemic on wheat in the Midwest of the U.S. Three additional epidemics followed in 1935, 1953, and 1954. However, these later epidemics were caused predominantly by spores blown north into the Midwest from Mexico and the southern U.S. states rather than by inoculum from barberries.



President 1917
M. T. Cook

1917 Discovery of physiological races in rusts (*Puccinia graminis*). Morphologically identical fungi from the same species can have different host ranges. This work led to additional research on the variability of plant pathogens and eventually to breeding for resistance to specific pathogen races.

1917 Effort to eradicate *Ribes* as an alternate host for *Cronartium ribicola* (causal agent of white pine blister rust). An eradication program was established on April 21, 1917, authorizing the destruction of *Ribes*, with an emphasis on European black currant. New York declared European black currant a public nuisance in 1917, with Massachusetts following in 1927 and Connecticut in 1929. The cultivated European black currant was eradicated in a relatively short time. Massive appropriations were made in the depression years (1930s) and efforts continued to eradicate wild *Ribes* species until the effort was terminated in 1967.

1917 *Plant Disease Reporter* is initiated by USDA, U.S. Division of Mycology and Disease Survey



President 1918
E. M. Freeman

1918 The War Emergency Board of American Plant Pathologists is formed with the goal of ensuring that the food supply in the nation would remain secure. This was accomplished by identifying important diseases and focusing efforts on these diseases through a collaboration of state and federal personnel.



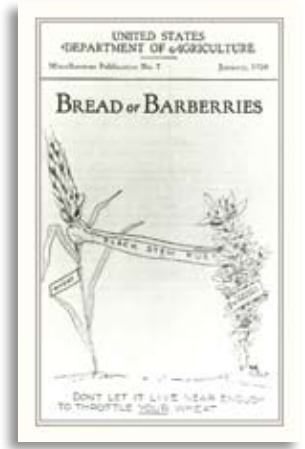
1918 War Emergency Board.

1918 Division of Nematology formed within USDA, led by N. A. Cobb

1918 Southern Division formed

1918 Canadian Division formed

1918 Barberry eradication program established to control wheat stem rust following the 1916 epidemic. This effort was initiated in 13 states to eliminate this alternate host of *Puccinia graminis* var. *tritici* in an attempt to reduce the widespread damage to small grains. This massive federal eradication program was terminated in the late 1970s following the destruction of more than 500 million barberry bushes. Individual states were responsible for continuing eradication efforts, although there is still a federal quarantine against the sale of stem rust-susceptible barberry.



L. C. Stebbins with wheat pots in the greenhouse, University of Minnesota, 1915.



University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Plant Pathology Seminary, 1918.