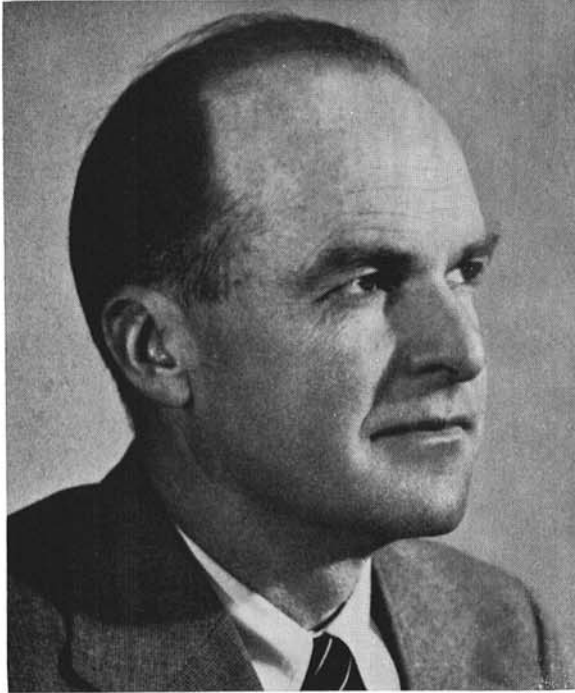


Ruth Allen Award

In 1965, the Ruth Allen Memorial Fund was established by means of gifts from the heirs of Ruth Allen: Sam Emsweller, Mabel Nebel, Hally Sax, and Evangeline Yarwood. The award, consisting of a certificate and the income from the invested fund, is to be given for outstanding contributions to the science of plant pathology. The 1969 recipient was William C. Snyder, who received the award at the 1969 Annual Meeting in Spokane, Washington.



William Cowperthwaite Snyder, a native of Berkeley, California, completed his B.S. degree at the University of California, and received the Ph.D. degree in Plant Pathology from the University of Wisconsin in 1932. He was a National Research Council Fellow in Biological Sciences, 1934-35, for studies on fusaria in Germany. In 1935 he returned to Berkeley and joined the staff of the Department of Plant Pathology. He advanced to full professor in 1949, and became chairman of the department in 1959.

Dr. Snyder is the recognized authority on the plant pathogenic fungi of the genus *Fusarium*, and has carried

on extensive research on the diseases of peas, beans, and other crops. His interest in the fusaria began with his thesis research with J. C. Walker in Wisconsin, and led to postdoctoral study with H. W. Wollenweber in Berlin, who had classified the fusaria into numerous species. Utilizing rigorous techniques and *Fusarium* cultures from all over the world, Dr. Snyder, together with his late colleague, H. N. Hansen, brought order out of chaos in the classification of the fusaria, erecting a system that has met with worldwide acceptance. He reduced the number of species to nine based strictly on morphology (spore shape, presence of chlamydo spores, and microconidia). Seven of these species have an ascus stage, three in *Gibberella*, two in *Calonectria*, and one each in *Nectria* and *Hypomyces*. He has, in fact, revolutionized the species concept in fungi, taking into account variability, mycelial versus conidial types, and inheritance in the ascus stage involving both sex and compatibility types. Within the species, he included different formae speciales based on pathogenicity and varieties based on other characteristics. He demonstrated the importance of light and nutrition to sporulation and perithecium production and of nutrition to pathogenicity. He and his students showed that pathogenic fusaria persist in the soil as chlamydo spores. The germination of these propagules is stimulated by root exudates of host plant seedlings and retarded by certain products of decomposing plant residues and by antibiotic products of the soil microflora. They explored the mode of host penetration and tissue invasion and helped to explain the nature of host resistance. Dr. Snyder envisions the *Fusarium* diseases on a worldwide basis, and participates in the research of colleagues and former students in other countries, especially in the tropics. He has established at Berkeley a center of research on fusaria and other plant pathogenic fungi which attracts students and plant pathologists from many countries.