

Wendell H. Tisdale, 1892-1973

T. C. Ryker



Dr. Wendell H. Tisdale died January 27, 1973, at the age of 81, in Wilmington, Delaware. The internationally known phytopathologist, who was a pioneer in developing modern fungicides, retired in 1954 after 28 years with the Du Pont Company.

Dr. Tisdale was born January 5, 1892, in Georgiana, Ala. He attended schools in Alabama and Florida, graduating with a B.S. degree in Agriculture and Botany from Alabama Polytechnic Institute at Auburn in 1914. He received a Masters degree in plant pathology in 1915 and a Ph.D. degree in 1917 at the University of Wisconsin. Graduate studies covered investigation of anthracnose on tomatoes and flax wilt.

Following one year as Scientific Assistant in the USDA Cereal Office in Washington and one school year, 1918-19, in charge of the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology at North Carolina State College at Raleigh, Dr. Tisdale returned to the Cereal Office as pathologist from 1919-1926. His investigations covered brown spot and smut of corn, "straighthead" and sclerotial diseases of rice, and the smut diseases of wheat, barley, oats, and rye.

Dr. Tisdale joined the Du Pont Company in 1926 as a plant pathologist doing research on seed disinfectants at the Organic Chemical Department's Jackson Laboratory, Carneys Point, N. J. In 1928, he headed research for the Bayer-Semesan Co., a

Du Pont subsidiary, and, in 1930, returned to the Organic Chemicals Department to lead research on insecticides and fungicides. Dr. Tisdale was transferred in 1934 to Du Pont's Grasselli Chemicals Co. of Cleveland. This company was organized as the Grasselli Chemicals Department of Du Pont in 1937, and at that time Dr. Tisdale was made manager of its pest control research section at the Du Pont Experimental Station in Wilmington. From 1949 until his retirement he assisted management in establishing Du Pont agricultural chemicals worldwide.

Dr. Tisdale was an active life-member of The American Phytopathological Society and served for a period as associate editor of *Phytopathology*. Perhaps his most valuable contribution to plant pathology was his leadership in developing and maintaining a good working relationship in the field of agriculture between industry and the land grant colleges. He was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and belonged to the honor societies, Sigma Xi, Phi Sigma, and Gamma Sigma Delta.

He is the author of more than 40 articles and papers. His more significant contributions are related to plant resistance for the control of flax wilt; a control practice for "straighthead" of rice; copper carbonate and organic mercurials as seed treatment procedures for small grains; and, the development of the dithiocarbamate fungicides.

Dr. Tisdale is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Koch Tisdale, a son, Glenn E., and a daughter, Marilyn E. Tisdale.