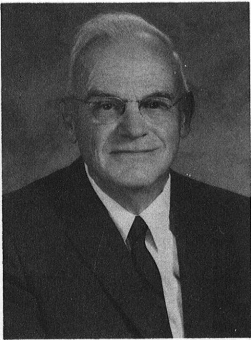


MAX WILLIAM GARDNER, 1890-1979

C. E. Yarwood



Max W. Gardner, Emeritus Professor of Plant Pathology at the University of California, Berkeley, died of a heart attack in Berkeley, October 31, 1979.

He was born May 11, 1890, at Lansing, Michigan. He early became interested in nature. From 1904 to 1911 he kept an extensive diary of his field observations, recently typed and bound in four volumes by his grandson, William Gardner Schottstaedt. Birds were a primary interest throughout his life. He learned to identify

them by their songs, flight patterns, and behavior as well as appearance. At Michigan Agricultural College, now Michigan State University, he received a BS degree in forestry in 1912 and an honorary Sc.D. in 1950.

His first professional job was with the Pennsylvania Chestnut Blight Commission in Philadelphia, where he worked with F. D. Heald, who encouraged him to take graduate work under L. R. Jones at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he received the MS degree in 1915 and the PhD in 1918. From 1914 to 1919 he worked intermittently with the U. S. Office of Truck Crop Diseases with G. K. K. Link. His first academic position was as instructor in Botany at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in 1917-1918. In 1919, he moved to the Department of Botany in the Experiment Station at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, where he became chief of Botany. In 1932, he joined the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of California, Berkeley and Davis, where he succeeded R. E. Smith as Chairman, in 1936. After retiring from this position in 1957, his continuing professional interests were in building the reprint collection of the U. C. Berkeley Plant Pathology Library, which now included 75,947 items. He also collected powdery mildews, many of which had not been previously described in the USA.

The major plant diseases on which he worked were: chestnut blight, market diseases, cucumber anthracnose (PhD thesis), angular leaf spot of cucumber, lightning injury, soybean mosaic, turnip mosaic, tomato mosaic, apple-blotch, downy mildew of turnip, bacterial spot of tomato, root knot, potato leaf roll, Cladosporium leaf spot of cowpea, *Sporichium* fruit spot of apple, apple sooty blotch, spotted wilt virus, *Rhizoctonia bataticola*, bacterial leaf spot of primula, *Phytophthora* on cauliflower, black ring virus of cabbage, garlic rust, carrot root

scab, *Phytophthora* on *Solanum*, bacterial blight of bean, apple scab, Pierce's disease of grapes, scab of pyracantha, and powdery mildews.

He was author or co-author of some 180 scientific publications. His associates in research in approximate chronological order included: F. D. Heald, R. D. Studhalter, L. R. Jones, W. W. Gilbert, G. K. K. Link, J. B. Kendrick, Sr., H. S. Jackson, H. D. Brown, L. Greene, C. E. Baker, F. P. Cullinan, P. H. Brewer, H. R. Kraybill, L. C. Cochran, C. L. Burkholder, R. W. Sampson, H. E. White, E. B. Mains, J. J. Davis, C. M. Tompkins, O. C. Whipple, C. M. Tucker, B. L. Richards, P. A. Ark, H. R. Thomas, J. T. Middleton, C. E. Yarwood, A. E. Michelbacher, Ray F. Smith, P. G. Smith, E. B. Babcock, R. E. Smith, E. E. Wilson, R. D. Raabe, H. Kern, P. D. Caldis, T. Duafala, C. J. Krass, and W. N. Takahashi.

Although Dr. Gardner contributed significantly through his personal research, he was, I believe, even more interested in helping younger colleagues. I can testify to this quality, having been one of his first graduate students and a close associate for 50 years. His initiation of a graduate studies program in plant pathology at Purdue and his teaching at Berkeley, where his major formal course was on diseases of truck crops, are further evidence of this. He graciously shared his knowledge and inspired in his friends and family a love and respect for nature.

He served on many university and national committees including the Division for Biology and Agriculture of the National Research Council. He was a life member of the American Phytopathological Society, serving as vice-president in 1930, president in 1931, and journal editor in 1959-1964. He was also a member of the Botanical Society of America, the Mycological Society of America, the American Society of Naturalists, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Michigan Academy of Science, the Indiana Academy of Science, Gamma Alpha, and Sigma Xi.

In 1922, he married Margaret Briggs, then Deputy State Chemist at Purdue University. With his wife, he often entertained associates and students at their home at 1441 Hawthorne Terrace, Berkeley. He is also survived by a daughter, Mary Frances Schottstaedt, M.D., who was University of California Scholarship Medalist in 1945 and is now Associate Professor of Psychiatry, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston; and a son, Murray Briggs Gardner, M.D., Professor of Pathology at the University of Southern California School of Medicine; and eight grandchildren.

Dr. Gardner was a kind, sensible, tolerant man with a delightful sense of humor who enjoyed lasting friendships with people in all walks of life.