

Samuel Forest Jenkins, Jr., 1930–1986

C. Lee Campbell and William L. Klarman



Samuel F. Jenkins, Jr., professor of plant pathology at North Carolina State University, died following a brief illness on Thursday, June 26, 1986, in Raleigh, North Carolina. He is survived by his wife, Anne, his sons John Forest and Steven Paul, his daughter Kay Frances Springs, and two grandchildren, Jennifer and Adam Springs.

Dr. Jenkins was born on June 15, 1930, in Oxford, NC. He graduated from Stem High School in Stem, NC, and attended Elon College from September 1948 to December 1949. In 1950, he enrolled in North Carolina State College (now North Carolina State University), but left to join the Air Force in 1951. After being discharged in 1954, he farmed in North Carolina for two years and then reentered North Carolina State College where he received the B.S. degree in crop science in 1958. He received the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in plant pathology in 1960 and 1962, respectively, from North Carolina State University. His Ph.D. thesis entitled "Genetic, Taxonomic, and Physiological Studies on Two *Glomerella* species Pathogenic on Cucurbits" was completed under the direction of Nash N. Winstead.

After receiving his Ph.D., Dr. Jenkins joined the University of Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station at Tifton as an assistant pathologist assigned to the study of tobacco diseases. In 1965, he became a member of the Department of Plant Pathology at North Carolina State University. He was promoted to associate professor in 1967 and to professor in 1975.

Dr. Jenkins had a productive career in plant pathology. He was the author of approximately 150 research, extension, and popular publications dealing with the nature, causes, and management of diseases of vegetable crops, with emphasis on diseases of

asparagus, carrots, cucumber, pepper, tomato, and watermelon. Throughout his career, Dr. Jenkins' research focused on understanding the biology of the pathogens and the epidemiology of the diseases with which he and his students worked, with the ultimate goal of seeking new and more practical management strategies. He carried out extensive investigations on the ecology of *Pseudomonas solanacearum* and the epidemiology of the bacterial wilt disease of tomatoes. He cooperated with Dr. W. R. Henderson, Department of Horticulture, N.C. State University, to develop and release Saturn and Venus, the first tomato cultivars resistant to bacterial wilt. Also, through his research, he provided recommendations for the effective chemical and cultural management of such diseases as anthracnose, powdery mildew, belly rot, and cottony leak on cucurbits and root-knot, bacterial wilt, and tobacco mosaic on pepper. His cooperative efforts in breeding for disease resistance in cucumber, watermelon, and tomato will continue to influence vegetable production in North Carolina and the Southeastern U.S. for many years.

In addition to his extensive research, Dr. Jenkins taught both undergraduate and graduate courses on diseases of vegetable crops and plant disease control. He also guided the research of six masters and seven doctoral students.

Dr. Jenkins was a member of the American Phytopathological Society, the Southern Division of APS, and Sigma Xi. He served on the APS New Fungicide and Nematicide Data Committee from 1978 to 1981 and was a section editor for Fungicide and Nematicide Tests. He received the Granville County Outstanding 4-H Alumnus Award in 1968 and was a recipient in 1971 of the L. M. Ware Research Award for the Southern Region of the American Society of Horticultural Science in recognition of outstanding research.

Sam will be missed by his family and friends, but the fruits of his research will continue to benefit future plant pathologists and vegetable growers.