

# Extension Award

This award was established in 1988 by the APS Council in recognition of excellence in extension plant pathology. The award is presented to those involved in formal plant pathology extension with recognized superior contributions in developing or implementing leadership roles in local, regional, or national honor societies or professional organizations.

## Malcolm C. Shurtleff



**Malcolm C. Shurtleff** was born in 1922 in Fall River, MA. He received his B.S. degree in 1943 from the University of Rhode Island and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Minnesota in 1950 and 1953, respectively. He served as assistant extension professor of plant pathology and entomology at the University of Rhode Island from 1950 to 1954 and as assistant and associate extension professor in the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, Iowa State University, from 1954 to 1961;

he has been extension professor at the University of Illinois from 1961 to the present. Dr. Shurtleff is a most prolific writer, known for his originality, creativity, and excellence as an extension specialist. Professor Shurtleff has written four books and two compendia and has over 1,000 extension and research publications to his credit. It is noteworthy that his book "How to Control Plant Diseases in Home, Yard and Garden" in its two editions was chosen as the Garden Book of the Month by the American

Garden Guild. Other books and compendia he has written or edited include "How to Control Lawn Diseases and Pests," "How to Control Tree Diseases and Pests," two editions of the "Compendium of Corn Diseases," the first edition of the "Compendium of Soybean Diseases," and "Controlling Turfgrass Pests." Shurtleff has written the plant disease section for four editions of the Encyclopaedia Britannica and for four other encyclopedias and the plant disease chapters for the "Better Homes and Gardens Garden Book," the Illinois Field Crop Scout Handbook, and the Illinois Plant Pest Profiles.

Shurtleff is generally recognized as one of the preeminent extension plant pathologists in the world. He was selected as the first chairman of the Extension Committee of the International Society of Plant Pathology and was the first state extension specialist elected Fellow of APS (1971). He was the only extension specialist recognized with the Adventurers in Agricultural Science Award of Distinction, presented by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland at the Ninth International Congress of Plant Protection in 1979. His creativity has been recognized by the University of Illinois with the College of Agriculture Paul A. Funk Award for excellence in service to agriculture (1975). Illinois State Senate Resolution No. 176 honored Drs. Shurtleff and

Hooker during the southern leaf blight epidemic of 1970–1971 for their “objectivity in a situation which verged on panic . . . that was in the very best tradition of public service.” Shurtleff received the prestigious USDA Distinguished Service Award in 1986, the only plant pathologist extension specialist to ever receive this honor. Perhaps the top honor today for Shurtleff was his selection as a Senior University Scholar by the University of Illinois Foundation in 1987, the only extension specialist to receive this honor to date.

Professor Shurtleff has served APS as councilor-at-large and

was the first editor-in-chief of both *Phytopathology News* and *Plant Disease*. His leadership and originality helped spawn the plant disease compendium series, plant disease profiles, plant disease slide sets, and the national corn and soybean monitoring plots concept.

In summary, Shurtleff is nationally and internationally recognized for his voluminous works, distinguished and creative authorship, unusual competence in emergencies, and untiring efforts in service to agriculture.