

Karl Dietrich Brase

May 5, 1903 — August 12, 1966

Karl Dietrich Brase, Associate Professor of Pomology at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, died at his home in Geneva, August 12, 1966, after a long illness. He is survived by his wife, Boydy Brezina Brase, whom he married April 16, 1938; a daughter, Barbara Anne Brase; a sister in Rochester, New York; and a brother in Germany.

Professor Brase was born in Bucheberg, Germany, May 5, 1903. He received his early horticultural training in Germany and was employed as assistant manager of a commercial nursery in Zurich, Switzerland. He came to the Experiment Station in 1928 as Plant Propagator. From 1931 to 1937 he studied at the College of Agriculture at Cornell, receiving the B.S. degree in 1935 and the M.S. degree in 1937. During this time he was part-time assistant in Pomology at Geneva. He advanced to the position of Associate Professor of Pomology in 1955.

Professor Brase's major scientific interest was the scion-rootstock relationship in tree fruits, and he conducted experiments with the size-controlling Mailing rootstocks for apple trees. He was one of the first to work with the Mailing stocks in America. He became a leading authority on fruit tree rootstocks in America. In addition to his orchard experiments with rootstocks, he worked extensively on the vegetative and seed propagation of rootstocks.

During Professor Brase's lifetime, research on fruit tree viruses began and developed into a field of great importance. He contributed to this research by more than a decade of productive cooperation with plant pathologists at Geneva and Ithaca. He traveled extensively in America and in Europe to keep up with rootstock and virus research at other institutions. He was well-known wherever research on fruit-tree rootstocks was being done.

As one of the pioneers and principal workers in this field, he lectured frequently at meetings of fruit growers in the apple-growing regions of the United States. The well-kept orchards under his care at the Experiment Station in Geneva were visited by many groups each year. He was the author, either Jointly, or singly, of ninety-three scientific papers and popular articles on his work with rootstocks, fruit tree propagation and viruses.

Professor Brase was a devoted student of propagation techniques for fruit trees. He was more often found in the nursery and orchard than in his office. He initiated orchard testing of variety and rootstock combinations and cooperated extensively with growers in this testing. He was particularly interested in size-controlling qualities of

the different rootstocks and their suitability for different soils. He was continually integrating wide areas of fruit physiology into his specialty, stock-scion relationships.

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