

Shear, George Myron, Papers

George Myron Shear Papers

1927-1986



Title Statement

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1988.006

Unit Date

1927-1986

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

This collection consists of the papers--including correspondence and published writings--of Virginia Tech plant pathologist and physiologist George Myron Shear. It includes correspondence with the laboratory of Thomas A. Edison.

Creator

Shear, George Myron

Extent

0.2 Cubic Feet 1 box

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The George Myron Shear Papers were acquired by Special Collections prior to 1989.

Processing Information

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Preferred Citation

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Biographical Note

George Myron Shear, son of Cornelius and Avis Morrison Sherwood Shear, was born in Maryland on April 25, 1905. He earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Maryland in 1927. The 1930 census shows George Shear living in the Arlington, Virginia home of his parents. He is described as 24, single, and unemployed.

Later that year, Shear married Olalla Elaine Glasgow (1906-1983), who, like him, had obtained a master's degree in botany at the University of Illinois in 1928. The Shears would have four children.

Also around 1930, Shear started work at the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station as a plant physiologist. In 1949, he became a professor of plant physiology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He was a pioneer in developing no-tillage farming techniques during the 1960s and was a noted expert on the cultivation of watercress.

George Myron Shear retired from Virginia Tech in 1970. He died in 1990 and was buried in Blacksburg's Westview Cemetery.

Scope and Content

This collection contains the papers of George Myron Shear, a plant pathologist and physiologist at Virginia Polytechnic Institute from 1930 to 1970. Among the correspondence are several 1927 letters from the laboratory of Thomas A. Edison regarding a project in which Shear was to collect for the lab various botanical samples of plants containing a milky latex. Included among these are photocopies of two letters from Thomas A. Edison. (The project arose from Edison's attempt to develop a cost-effective domestic production of rubber.) The remainder of the correspondence relates largely to requests from various individuals for copies of Shear's articles and for assistance with various projects. Other letters relate to nominees for the No-Tillage Pioneer of the Year Award. Also included is a collection of Shear's writings, consisting mostly of printed materials relating to his work with no-tillage farming. Except where otherwise noted, all articles in the collection were either authored or co-authored by Shear. The publications are followed by a bibliography of Shear's reports and articles. A booklet about no-till farming, published by Allis-Chalmers and incorporating research data from Virginia Tech, completes the collection.

Keywords

Botany

Faculty and staff

University History

Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and Polytechnic Institute (1896-1944)

Virginia Polytechnic Institute (1944-1970)

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence with the Thomas Edison laboratory

Unit Date 1927

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

General correspondence

Unit Date 1927-1986

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station publications

Unit Date 1933-1947

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

"The Effect of Nutrition on the Chemical Composition of Winesap Apple Foliage" (Technical Bulletin 106)

Unit Date 1947

"The Effects of Soil Reaction on the Growth and Chemical Composition of Annual Garden Flowers" (Technical Bulletin 63)

Unit Date 1938

"Factors Affecting Physiological Breakdown of Maturing Tobacco" (Technical Bulletin 74)

Unit Date 1941

"Field and Laboratory Studies on Frenching of Tobacco" (Technical Bulletin 49)

Unit Date 1933

"Plant Tissue Tests Versus Soil Tests for Determining the Availability of Nutrients for Tobacco" (Technical Bulletin 84)

Unit Date 1943

"The Improvement of Watercress Culture" (Purnell Fund Project)

Unit Date n.d.

Virginia Polytechnic Institute Extension Division publications

Unit Date 1947-1969

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Extent [2 folders]

"How Soil Reaction Affects the Supply of Plant Foods" (Bulletin 136, rev.)

Unit Date 1947

"How Soil Reaction Affects the Supply of Plant Nutrients" (Bulletin 136, rev.)

Unit Date 1960

"Reduced and No-tillage Practices for Growing Corn in Virginia" (Bulletin 553, repr.)

Unit Date 1965

"Virginia Weed-Control Guide" (Control Series I)

Unit Date 1969

"Apple Diseases and Their Control in Virginia" (Publication 374)

Unit Date 1970

"No-tillage Corn: Current Virginia Recommendations" (Publication 342)

Unit Date 1970

Virginia Polytechnic Institute publications

Unit Date 1968-1973

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

"No-tillage (Sod-planted) Corn in Virginia: Why and How" (Agronomy Department MA 77)

Unit Date 1968

"Rotations for No-tillage Corn in Virginia" (Research Division Report 147)

Unit Date 1973

U. S. Dept. of Agriculture publications

Unit Date 1940-1968

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

"Frenching of Tobacco Distinguished from Thallium Toxicity by Spectrographic Analysis" (repr. from Journal of Agricultural Research)

Unit Date 1940

"Thrips Injury of Peanut Seedlings" (repr. from The Plant Disease Reporter)

Unit Date 1941

"Commercial Growing of Watercress" (Farmers' Bulletin 2233)

Unit Date 1968

"Growing Watercress" (Leaflet 448)

Unit Date 1959

Journal and magazine reprints and extracts

Unit Date 1934-1975, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Extent [2 folders]

"Calcium Accumulation in Apple Fruit Infected with Venturia Inaequalis (Cooke) Wint" (Physiological Plant Pathology 1)

Unit Date 1971

"Calcium Translocation in the Peanut (Arachis Hypogaea L.)" (Agronomy Journal 63)

Unit Date 1971

"Color as an Index of Nitrogen Content of Leaves of York and Stayman Apples" (Proceedings of the American Society for Horticultural Science 52)

Unit Date 1948

"Comparative Lime Effects on Continuous No-tillage and Conventionally Tilled Corn" (Agronomy Journal 65)

Unit Date 1973

"Comparative Yield and Fertilizer Efficiency of No-tillage and Conventionally Tilled Corn" (Agronomy Journal 64)

Unit Date 1972

"Continuous Corn by the No-Tillage and Conventional Tillage Methods: A Six-Year Comparison" (Agronomy Journal 61)

Unit Date 1969

"The Development of the No-tillage Concept in the United States" (Outlook on Agriculture 5)

Unit Date 1968

"Effects of Low Levels of Atrazine on Some Mineral Constituents and Forms of Nitrogen in Zea Mays L." (Agronomy Journal 64)

Unit Date 1972

"Effects of Low Levels of Bromacil on Some Mineral Constituents and Forms of Nitrogen in Glycine Max (L.) Merrill" (Agronomy Journal 64)

Unit Date 1972

"Factors Affecting Fruit Development of the Jumbo Runner Peanut" (Agronomy Journal 47)

Unit Date 1955

"Growing Corn Without Tillage" (Soil Science Society of America Proceedings 25)

Unit Date 1961

"Influence of Time of Planting and Digging on the Jumbo Runner Peanut" (Agronomy Journal 51)

Unit Date 1959

"Lanolin as a Wound Dressing for Trees" (Proceedings of the American Society for Horticultural Science 34)

Unit Date 1937

"Leaf Nitrogen and Color Responses to Nitrogen Fertilization" (Proceedings of the American Society for Horticultural Science) 59

Unit Date 1952

"The Mealybug Makes a Discovery" (Virginia Fruit)

Unit Date n.d.

"Moisture and pH Studies of the Soil Under Forest Trees" (Ecology 15)

Unit Date 1934

"No-tillage Corn" (Agricultural Chemicals)

Unit Date 1969

"No-tillage Tobacco Studies in Virginia" (Tobacco Science 15)

Unit Date [1976]

"Notes on Winter Damage in 1985/86 in the Blacksburg Area" (Mid-Atlantic Rhododendron News and Notes 13)

Unit Date n.d.

"Potentials for Pine Mouse Control with Ground Sprayed Chlorophacinone" (Virginia Fruit)

Unit Date 1971

"Residual Fertility in Soil Continuously Field Cropped to Corn by Conventional Tillage and No-tillage Methods" (Agronomy Journal 67)

Unit Date 1975

"Some Ways by Which Nutrition May Affect Severity of Disease in Plants" (Phytopathology 34)

Unit Date 1944

"Stand and Early Growth of Orchardgrass and Red Clover Seeded After No-tillage Corn" (Agronomy Journal 61)

Unit Date 1969

"Studies on Inanition in Arachis and Phaseolus" (Plant Physiology 6)

Unit Date [1930]

"Variations in Response of Different Varieties and Hybrids of Field Corn to Planting Rate" (Journal of the American Society of Agornomy 38)

Unit Date 1946

"Weed Control in Limited-tillage Systems" (Monograph Series, Weed Science Society 2)

Unit Date [1985]

"What is No-tillage?" (Australian Country Magazine 26)

Unit Date 1969

"Winter Cover Crops for Sod-planted Corn: Their Selection and Management" (Agronomy Journal 59)

Unit Date 1967

"Winter Injury of Rhododendrons" ([Virginia Journal of Science 29])

Unit Date [1978]

Typescript drafts

Unit Date [1964-1985, n.d.]

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

George Myron Shear bibliography

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

"No Nonsense Guide to No-til Farming" (Allis-Chalmers)

Unit Date [1969?]

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)