Guide to the R. H. Robinson Papers, 1889-1968

Title
R. H. Robinson Papers (MSS Robinson)

Dates
1889-1968 (inclusive)
1925-1955 (bulk)

Creator
Robinson, R. H. (Reginald Heber), 1886-

Summary
The R.H. Robinson Papers document Robinson's research on insecticides, fungicides, and spray residues conducted as a chemist with the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station, a position Robinson held from 1911 until his retirement in 1951. The Papers include correspondence, article reprints and publications, research data, reference materials, and publications.

Quantity
8.8 cubic feet (9 boxes)

Restrictions on Access
Collection is open for research.

Oregon State University Libraries, University Archives
121 The Valley Library
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331-4501
Phone: 541-737-2165
Email: archives@oregonstate.edu
Web: http://osulibrary.oregonstate.edu/archives

Finding aid prepared by Elizabeth Nielsen, 2009.

Biographical Note

R. H. Robinson joined the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station in 1911 as Assistant Chemist and served as a researcher with the Experiment Station until his retirement in 1951. Robinson specialized in the study of insecticides, fungicides, and spray residues (especially on fruits). According to an article in the November 2, 1951 issue of the *Barometer* campus newspaper, he was considered the nation's foremost authority on agricultural spray residue problems. He published extensively and produced more than 75 scientific publications and bulletins during his career. In the early 1920s, he was instrumental in writing (and supervising after its passage) Oregon's control law governing sale of insecticides and fungicides. In the mid-1920s, he worked with Henry Hartman of the Horticulture Department to develop a method for removal of spray residue from apples and pears; the presence of arsenical residues had threatened the apple and pear industry in Oregon. His method was used throughout the United States until new insecticides replaced the arsenicals.

Reginald Heber Robinson was born in Michigan in 1886 and earned an A.B. degree from Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon in 1909. He completed an MS in Chemistry at the University of California in 1912 and did post-graduate work in chemistry at Columbia University in the summer of 1914.

Leon C. Terriere joined the faculty of Oregon State College in 1950 as a researcher in insect toxicology after completing his Ph.D. at Oregon State. Terrier had a joint appointment in the Departments of Agricultural Chemistry and Entomology.

Content Description

The R. H. Robinson Papers consist of materials generated and assembled by Robinson in his work as a chemist with the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station. The papers reflect his research on insecticides, fungicides, and spray residues and include correspondence, article reprints and publications, research data, reference materials, and publications. The correspondence primarily pertains to Robinson's research and documents the interaction between Robinson and other scientists as well as vendors on topics such as removal of DDT residues, determination of arsenic residue on fruit, pesticide formulation, and patent conflicts. The correspondence also includes Robinson's congressional testimony in 1948-1951. The research data includes notes, residue study data, publications, correspondence, and report drafts.

The reference materials and publications comprise the bulk of the collection and include article reprints, literature reviews and bibliographies, reports, product brochures, Extension publications, and conference proceedings. The reference materials include compilations and reviews of U.S. patents pertaining to insecticides and pest control. Publications and reports by the USDA Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, the Division of Insecticide Investigations, and the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils are part of the reference materials. Most of the reference materials are arranged by topic.

The correspondence also includes materials created and assembled by Leon C. Terriere on feeding studies with insectides on forage crops that were conducted after Robinson's retirement.

Preferred Citation

R.H. Robinson Papers, Oregon State University Archives, Corvallis, Oregon.

Custodial History

The papers were acquired by the OSU Libraries' Special Collections in the late 1980s from the Agricultural Chemistry Department.

Acquisition Information

The Robinson Papers were transferred from Special Collections to the Archives in 2008.

Processing Note

This collection is not fully processed; this guide is preliminary.

Additional Reference Guides

Preliminary container list available online.

Related Material

Reprints of some of Robinson's publications are available in the Memorabilia Collection (MC-Robinson, R.H.). Extensive documentation of agricultural research activities at Oregon State are available in the Agricultural Experiment Station Records (RG 025). The records of the Agricultural Chemistry (RG 081), Crop and Soil Science (RG 095), Entomology (RG 027), and Horticulture (RG 187) Departments also document research projects pertaining to insecticides, fungicides, and spray residues. Materials pertaining to pesticides are also available in the College of Agricultural Sciences (RG 158), Environmental Health Sciences Center (RG 155), and Extension Service (RG 111) Records. The Archives' collections include the papers of several other Agricultural Chemistry faculty: Joseph S. Butts, J.R. Haag, John R. Schubert, Paul H. Weswig, and James M. Witt.

Subjects

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the OSU Libraries Catalog. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog (http://oasis.oregonstate.edu) using these headings.

Organizations

Topics

Agricultural chemistry--Oregon.
Agriculture--Research--Oregon.
Fungicides--Oregon.
Insect pests--Control--Oregon.
Insecticides--Oregon.
Pesticides--Toxicology.
Spraying and dusting residues in agriculture.

Other Creators

Oregon State Agricultural College. Agricultural Experiment Station.
Oregon State College. Agricultural Experiment Station.
Oregon State University. Agricultural Experiment Station.
Terriere, Leon C.
United States. Bureau of Chemistry.
United States. Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.