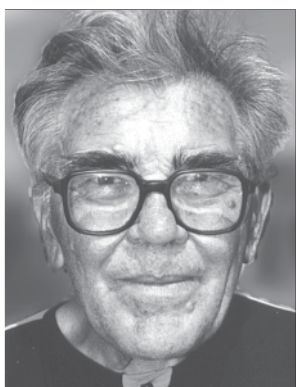


AN OBITUARY NOTICE

Ing. František Mareček

František Mareček, horticultural scientist; *July 30, 1921 – † December 18, 2011



Ing. František Mareček (90), famous horticulturist and organiser of horticultural research in the Czech Republic over the last 60 years, passed away on December 18, 2011.

He was born in Kukleny near Hradce Králové on July 30, 1921, into a family possessing long-lasting horticultural tradition.

After finishing his professional education he stood at the very beginning of the Research Institute of Plant Production that was established on January 1, 1951 in Prague-Ruzyně. Later on, he was director of this institute for many years. Being a member of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and the Czechoslovak Academy of Agriculture, he was very active in various technical commissions in both these institutions.

He was a leading organiser of many domestic conferences and also frequently participated in a range of meetings or seminars abroad. For certain time he was appointed as the director of the Research and Breeding Institute for Vegetable Growing in Olomouc.

Extensive publication activities of František Mareček were very beneficial for successful development of horticulture in the Czech Republic. He was the author or co-author of several valuable books and a great number of professional or scientific articles. In the period 1976–1990 he was the chairman of this journal editorial board; at the time, it was published in Czech language version named simply *Zahradnictví* (Horticulture). Afterwards he was the chief coordinator and scientific editor of *Zahradnický slovník naučný* (Instructional Horticultural Dictionary) that was published in 5 volumes in Prague in 1994–2001.

His name could be also included among successful breeders of horticultural crops. In the case of fruit species, he was a pioneer of breeding for disease resistance using crossing of cultivars with botanical apple species resistant to scab. Yet, the most significant results he achieved in vegetables, where he selected 11 new cultivars.

The excellence of František Mareček was recognised by membership in several scientific councils, plant breeding councils and editorial boards. At the time of his professional activity he was one of the most outstanding horticulturists in our country.

By his death on December 18, 2011, the community of scientists and researchers lost the leading personality in the field of horticultural research. We appreciate very much the activities of František Mareček promoting cooperation of scientists, breeders and practical users of their innovation both in the former Czechoslovakia and in the Czech Republic, his inventive ideas, new cultivars developed and his friendly relations to all members of horticultural community.

Doc. Eva Pekárková, CSc. and Ing. Jan Blažek, CSc.