Finding Aid to the
Department of Botany Records

Department of Botany
Department of Botany records, 1920-1954
1 linear ft.

OVERVIEW

Links: College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources records, 1892-present
Finding Aid to the Biological Sciences Department, 16.4.1

Access: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the University Archives.

Provenance: University transfer between departments.

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Citation: [Identification of item]. Department of Botany Records, University Archives, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

HISTORY

In the “First Annual Catalogue,” May 1892, there is a listing for the Department of Botany and Zoology. Botany courses were mandatory for the freshmen, junior and senior years. (pp. 27-29). In the 1905-1906 Bulletin, botany became one of four course grouping offered: biology, botany, zoology, physiology, and bacteriology. As of the 1909-1910 Bulletin, although still listed under biology, botany was now called the Division of Botany. Fourteen courses were offered, from elements of botany to plant pathology (pp. 52-55). As of the 1916-1917 Bulletin, botany, still within the Department of Biology, was listed as the
Division of Botany and Plant Pathology. As of the 1926-1927 Bulletin, although still together, plant pathology changed to plant physiology and the listing read: Department of Botany and Plant Physiology. In the 1942-1943 Bulletin (Fifty years after the first Bulletin), we find botany listed as the Department of Botany, with four professors, and twenty courses listed, including: general botany; plant pathology; agrostology; ecology; identification; and history of botany (pp. 72-73). As of the 1954-1955 Bulletin, botany was once again with plant pathology, under the heading of the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, in the School of Applied Arts and Sciences. As of the 1960-1962 Bulletin, botany was listed as a single entity as the Department of Botany, in the School of Arts and Sciences and plant pathology was listed as the Department of Plant Pathology, in the School of Agriculture. In the 1976-1978 Bulletin, botany, which was now in the College of Science and Mathematics, is listed as Botany – Biology. One hundred years after the First Annual Catalogue, botany and biology are still listed together, although as separate concentrations. “Botany offers instruction in the major areas of plant science…. An undergraduate major prepares the students for graduate work or professional employment. Botany joins with zoology in offering an undergraduate major in biological sciences. Graduate work in plant science is offered at both the M.S. and Ph.D. levels.” (1992/1994 NDSU Bulletin, p. 84)

The 2002-2004 NDSU Bulletin lists botany as an individual department within the College of Science and Mathematics. The Botany website (as of 10/02) describes the program as: “The undergraduate program in botany at North Dakota State University is designed for students seeking a better understanding of plants and eventual careers in the plant sciences. The Department of Biological Sciences offers instruction in a number of different areas for majors and for students interested in the applied field of plant sciences. The botany curriculum allows students to become knowledgeable in botany and to pursue individual interests through elective course work. The introductory courses also are of interest to nonmajors seeking a more limited background in science. A science as broad in scope as botany requires basic knowledge in other disciplines such as chemistry, zoology, physics and mathematics for a complete understanding of plants. These are provided in the curriculum.”

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection has two series: correspondence and departmental records. The vast majority of the correspondence series (1930-1954) consists of outgoing departmental correspondence dealing with professional matters, internal matters, and replies to various questions sent in by the general public. The departmental records series (1920-1946) consists reports, inventories, position listings and applications, material and publication requests, the plant science club and various projects.

BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

BOX 1

1A Finding Aid
1 Correspondence, 1930
2 Correspondence, 1937
3 Correspondence, 1938
4 Correspondence, 1939
5 Correspondence, 1940
6 Correspondence, 1941
7 Correspondence, 1941
8 Correspondence, 1942
9 Correspondence, 1942
10 Correspondence, 1943
11 Correspondence, 1943
12 Correspondence, 1946
13 Correspondence, 1946
14 Correspondence, 1947
15 Correspondence, 1947
16 Correspondence, 1949
17 Correspondence, 1951
18 Correspondence, 1952

BOX 2

1 Correspondence, 1952
2 Correspondence, 1952
3 Correspondence, 1952
4 Correspondence, 1954
5 Departmental requests for publications, 1940, 1942
6 North Dakota Farm Population Estimates, 1937
7 The Minnesota plan for Seed Distribution
8 Germination of wheat and appearance of sprouted grains in thrashed seed, O.A. Stevens
9 Water Requirements of Agricultural Crops, Some Weeds, and Other Crop Plants, E.A. Helgason
10 Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, Assistance Request
11 Water Bloom as Cause of Livestock Poisoning in North Dakota, 1946
12 List of References to Boron Literature, American Potash Institute
13 Systematic and Range Botany
14 National Youth Administration Project Applications, 1936-1940
15 Collection of Plant Disease Specimens and Collection of Weed Seeds
16 Weed Collections
17 Herbarium Inventory
18 Employment, Applications and Correspondence, 1932-1941
19 Plant Science Club, 1932-1935
20 Junior Range Examiner, 1920, 1937
21 Investigative Committee, Grazing and Forest Service, 1924-1938
22 Palatability Lists, 1922-1927
23 Special Equipment Fund, 1933-1936
24 Teachers Aid Fund, 1935-1937
25 Teachers Aid, 1932-1937

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