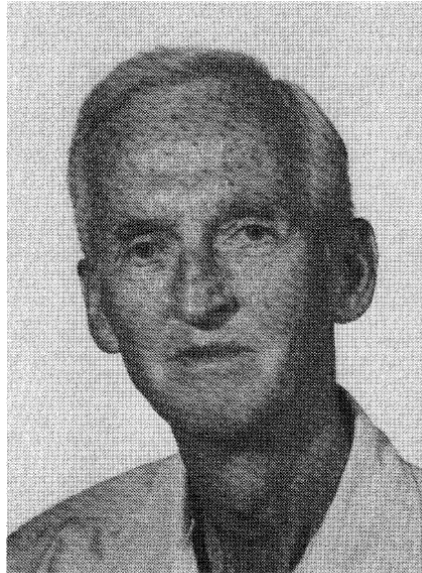


From the Oat Newsletter, volume 24, 1973:

M. B. Moore  
Award for Distinguished Service to Oat Improvement



Mr. Matthew B. Moore, Professor Emeritus of Plant Pathology at the University of Minnesota, has been a leader in all pathological phases of oat improvement. In 1929 he began as a technician with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, working for the prevention of grain rust, but soon joined the staff at the University of Minnesota as an Instructor of Agricultural Botany and assistant in Plant Pathology. Mr. Moore was an Instructor of Botany for one year (1931-1932) at Louisiana State University. He returned to the University of Minnesota as a member of the Plant Pathology Department and remained until his retirement on June 30, 1973. In 1960 Mr. Moore spent 4 months on research at the Alaska Agricultural Experiment Station and again from February 1 to August 31, 1962 was on sabbatical leave as a consultant to the Alaska Agricultural Experiment Station. While there he advised on agronomic disease problems, principally barley yellow dwarf, stripe and false stripe, timothy eye spot, and alfalfa black stem.

In over four decades of teaching "Introductory Plant Pathology" and "Plant Pathology for Advanced Students" courses, Mr. Moore influenced between 3000-4000 students, many of whom were guided into the field of plant pathology by his extraordinary abilities as a teacher. His students consider him one of the best instructors on the campus.

Mr. Moore, a natural-born mechanical genius, has applied his talents to problems related to plant pathology. Mechanical innovations were designed to improve pathological techniques of inoculation, seed treatment of small grains, and bird depredation control in field research plots. While his research activities have been concerned with all oat diseases, his work with crown rust in particular has been most rewarding. Over tremendous opposition, Mr. Moore was successful in establishing on

the St. Paul Campus one of the first buckthorn plots for the etiological study of crown rust.

He desired to break away from the traditional specific gene for resistance breeding concept and try to accumulate a series of nonspecific genes for more lasting protection against the ravages of crown rust on oats. A whole series of Minnesota-developed breeding lines, which resulted from rigid selection under crown rust epidemic conditions in his buckthorn nursery, have performed very well in the International Oat Rust Nursery over the past 5 years. This series is now available to oat breeders for use as crown rust resistant germplasm.

Mr. Moore was born April 11, 1905 at St. Paul, Minnesota on a small fruit farm which has since become engulfed by the expansion of the developing city. His present home was included among the original farm buildings. He attended the School of Agriculture (high school) on the present location of the University of Minnesota Institute of Agriculture, and graduated in 1924. He obtained his B.S. degree in 1929 and an M.S. degree in 1934, and did further graduate work, all at the University of Minnesota.