



IN MEMORIAM  
WARREN CLIFFORD ADLERZ  
(1928–1986)

Dr. Warren C. Adlerz, 58, entomologist at the University of Florida Research Center at Leesburg, died July 11, of leukemia. Although his health was deteriorating, he remained active on the job until about 2 weeks before his death.

Dr. Adlerz was born April 25, 1928 in Worcester, Massachusetts. After graduation from high school, he joined the U. S. Air Force serving in Labrador and reaching the rank of S/Sergeant. His higher education was at the University of Massachusetts (B.S., 1953, Entomology) and Oregon State University (M.S., 1955; Ph.D., 1958) where he combined entomology and plant pathology as a major. He joined the University of Florida staff at Leesburg in 1958 and became a full Professor in 1974.

His research involved insects of watermelons and other cucurbits and grapes. He was especially interested in virus transmission and the epidemiology of aphid-transmitted virus diseases. He was very knowledgeable about aphids and their identification and had developed a large collection. He published more than 60 scientific articles. Many of these concerned "sharpshooter" leafhoppers, vectors of the bacteria causing phony peach disease and Pierce's disease of grapes. He was a member of the research team that investigated the possible insect transmission of citrus blight, even though no causal organisms had been demonstrated then or now! It had been observed that there were common symptoms between citrus blight and Pierce's disease, and that citrus was a host of Pierce's disease bacterium. In spite of diligent work by Warren and his colleagues, the long standing problem of citrus blight remains unsolved.

He was a member of the Leesburg Elks Lodge and numerous professional societies including the Entomological Society of America, American Phytopathological Society, Sigma Xi, Florida Entomological Society and the Florida State Horticulture Society.

Warren enjoyed sports. He was an avid golfer until he was smitten by the jogging "bug". He became a serious runner, and won trophies in numerous races. He got a special "kick" out of cucurbit races, always showing up at the zucchini run at Windsor, and the watermelon run in Gainesville.

Warren is survived by his wife, Rita of Leesburg, a son, Clifford, New Port Richey, FL, his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Carl Adlerz of Worcester, MA and a sister.

D. H. Habeck and F. W. Mead

