

GROWERTALKS

GT in Brief

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In Memoriam: Gus De Hertogh

Chris Beytes

August A. “Gus” De Hertogh, a former North Carolina State University department head, passed away October 26. He was an internationally known expert on the physiology, handling and forcing of flower bulbs. A memorial gathering took place Sunday, October 28.

Through teaching, research and leadership, Gus leaves a rich legacy at NC State and its Department of Horticultural Science, where he served as department head for almost a decade. His research and publishing accomplishments have also benefited the commercial horticulture industry through partnerships he built between the industry and the university. His basic and applied research is credited with having significantly increased the efficiency of production of flowering bulbs here and abroad.

Gus, born in Chicago to Belgian immigrants, was a two-time graduate of NC State. He received his bachelor’s degree in 1957 and his master’s in 1961 in crop science. He earned his Ph.D. in botany at Oregon State University.

He went on to join the horticulture faculty at Michigan State in 1965, where he received extensive grants from the Netherlands. He incorporated his and other research findings into widely used “how-to-do-it” schedules for handling and forcing flower bulbs. In 1978 he joined the NC State faculty, bringing his flower bulb research with him when he became head of the university’s Horticultural Science Department.

Elected a fellow of the American Society for Horticultural Science in 1991, Gus held leadership positions in several areas of the society’s work. He also won many awards and honors, including NC State’s Innovator Award, the Medal of Honor from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries from the Hague, the Netherlands, and awards from national and international industry associations.

Gus is survived by his wife, Mary Belle, six grandchildren and a great-granddaughter. To honor Gus, consider donating to the JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State (jcra.ncsu.edu) or the American Diabetes Association in North Carolina (diabetes.org). **GT**