

The  
Chile Pepper Institute  
Box 30003, MSC 3Q  
New Mexico State University  
Las Cruces, NM 88003

The Chile Pepper Institute  
New Mexico State University  
Dr. Paul Bosland - Director  
Danise Coon - Program Coordinator



[www.chilepepperinstitute.org](http://www.chilepepperinstitute.org)

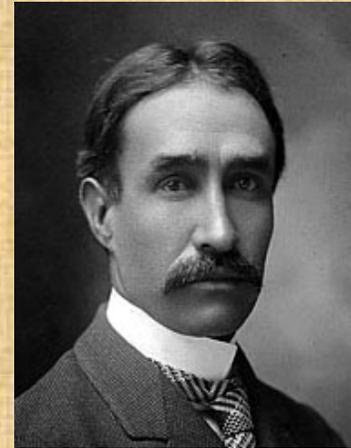
[hotchile@nmsu.edu](mailto:hotchile@nmsu.edu)

575-646-3028

*Educating the World About  
Chile Peppers*



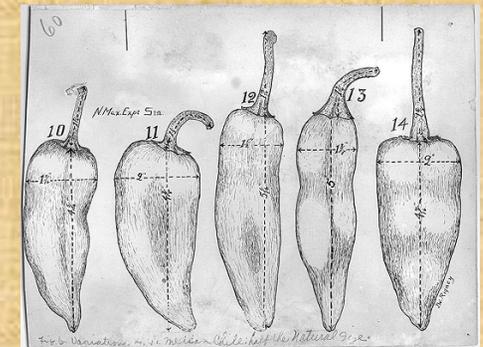
## Fabian Garcia



“The Man Behind the Legend”

1871-1948

Fabian Garcia’s professional and personal legacy continue to provide an example of distinction at NMSU.



## Biographical Sketch

- 1871** Born in Chihuahua, Mexico
- 1873** Brought to the U.S. by his Grandmother, Doña Jacoba
- 1875** Moved to the Mesilla Valley
- 1889** Became a U.S. citizen
- 1890** Entered the new agriculture college in Mesilla Park
- 1894** A member of the first graduating class of the New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts (NMCA & MA)
- 1906** Master of Science degree from NMCA & MA
- 1907** Began to breed for a new chile pod type
- 1908** Published "Chile Culture" Agriculture bulletin No. 67
- 1913-45** Appointed Director of the New Mexico Agricultural Experiment Station
- 1917** Published "Chile" Agriculture Bulletin No. 289
- 1921** Released The fruit New Mexican pod type - New Mexico No. 9
- 1927** Awarded Honorary Doctor in Agriculture, NMSU
- 1948** Dies from complication of Parkinson's Disease



### Fabian Garcia: Pioneer Horticulturalist

An elegant man and a born gentleman, Dr. Fabián García devoted his life to horticultural science and to the betterment of his community. His work as a horticulturist changed the face of New Mexico agriculture, and that of a nation. Born in Mexico, Garcia attended New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts (later to be known as New Mexico State University), and was a member of the University's first graduating class in 1894. When he became the director of New Mexico State University's Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension Service in 1913, he was the first Hispanic in the nation to lead a land-grant agricultural research station. He filled this position with enthusiasm and extraordinary productivity both as a researcher and as an administrator until he fell ill in 1945. His monumental achievements are continuing to inspire researchers and students at New Mexico State University today.

Garcia made many significant contributions to horticulture. It is as a chile pepper pioneer, that he made one of his greatest achievements, the development of a new pod type in chile peppers, the "New Mexican" (sometimes mistakenly called the "Anaheim"). Around 1907, Fabian Garcia began a series of groundbreaking experiments to develop more standardized chile pepper varieties. In 1921 he released 'New Mexico 9,' the first New Mexican variety with a dependable pod size and heat level. This new pod variety opened commercial markets for New Mexico chile pepper and established the New Mexico chile pepper food industry. Thus, he is known as the Father of

the Mexican Food industry of the United States.



All New Mexican-type chile peppers grown today, including the "Anaheim," owe their genetic base to Fabian Garcia's New Mexico No. 9 cultivar. Another significant research accomplishment with chile peppers was his "raised-bed" method of growing chile peppers to reduce the disease caused by *Phytophthora capsici*. Garcia's method of growing chile peppers on raised beds to control phytophthora rot is being rediscovered today by people unaware of his earlier research.

Garcia's legacy of excellence in both his professional and personal life inspired many in his time and continues to serve as an example at New Mexico State University. To honor Fabian Garcia's contributions at New Mexico State University, the 45-acre horticulture farm was named after him, along with the Faculty Senate Meeting Hall, the building housing the Center for International Programs, and appropriately a dormitory, Garcia Hall, New Mexico State University's largest residence hall. Other recognitions include the Fabian Garcia Memorial Scholarship and the Fabian Garcia Multicultural Scholars Program.

Dr. Garcia was a Hispanic horticulture pioneer in the United States. The \$300 million New Mexico chile pepper industry can be contributed to his pioneer efforts.