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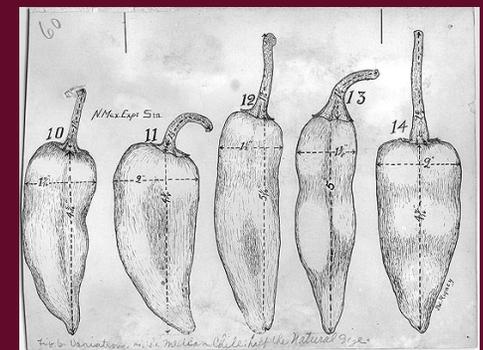
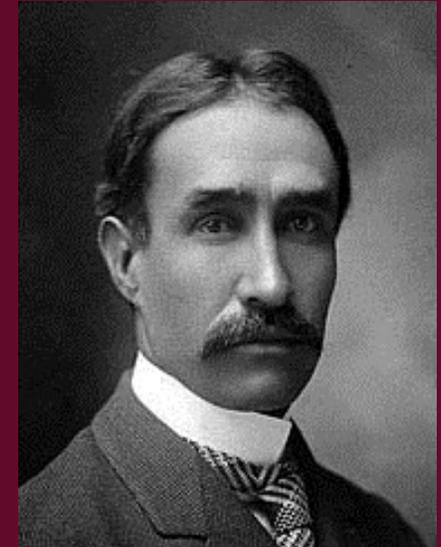
New Mexico State University

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Fabián García

“The Man Behind the Legend”

1871-1948



**“To Educate the World
About Chile Peppers”**

Biographical Sketch

- 1871 Born in Chihuahua, Mexico
- 1873 Brought to the United States 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

Fabián García's professional and personal legacy continue to provide an example of distinction at NMSU.

Fabián García: 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, García 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.

García 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, Fabián García 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 Fabián García'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*. García's method of growing chile peppers on raised beds to control phytophthora rot is being rediscovered today by people unaware of his earlier research.

García'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 Fabián García'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 Fabián García Memorial Scholarship and the Fabián García Multicultural Scholars Program.

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

