



BENJAMIN, RUTH

Ruth Benjamin (née Steiner) was born in Germany in 1923. She emigrated to Israel (then Palestine) at the age of 12. During the Second World War Ruth volunteered to serve in the British Women's Military Corps. During the War of Independence served as an officer in IDF.

Ruth Benjamin began working in 1951 at the Ornamental Farm as a senior technician. In light of her success in running the farm, she was appointed as its director.

Established in 1949 by the Ministry of Agriculture in Hefer Valley in the central coastal Sharon region, the Ornamental Farm was to serve as a demonstration and extension center. Under Ruth's leadership the farm became the national focal point for observations, acclimatization and propagation trials, and exhibition of ornamental plants. Together with the Nursery Association of Israel, The Ornamental Farm played a central role in know-how transfer to professional gardeners, landscape architects and amateurs.

Administratively the Farm was first under the Ministry of Agriculture Headquarters. It was under the Hadera Regional Office of the Ministry from 1963 to 1973, when it was attached to the Agricultural Research Organization (ARO) of the Ministry, under professional guidance of the Flower and Ornamentals Division.

Ruth Benjamin, in addition to her on-going work in managing the Farm, maintained close relationships with botanical institutes abroad, and regularly published professional articles and extension materials in Israel's leading journals 'Hassadeh' and 'Gan VaNof'.

In the early 1970s, based on her rich professional experience, Ruth began preparing a comprehensive book on the ornamental plants of Israel. She did manage to review the books' draft, but passed away at the age of 53 in 1976 before seeing the book published.