



HALL OF FAME / inventor profile



George Washington Carver

Born circa 1864 - Died Jan 5 1943

Cosmetic and Process of Producing the Same; Paint and Stain and Process of Producing the Same Peanut Products

Patent Number(s) 1,522,176; 1,541,478

Inducted 1990

Agricultural chemist George Washington Carver developed [crop-rotation](#) methods for conserving nutrients in soil and discovered hundreds of new uses for crops such as the peanut, which created new markets for farmers, especially in the South.

Invention Impact

At Tuskegee, Carver developed his crop rotation method, which alternated nitrate producing legumes-such as peanuts and peas-with cotton, which depletes soil of its nutrients. Following Carver's lead, southern farmers soon began planting peanuts one year and cotton the next. While many of the peanuts were used to feed livestock, large surpluses quickly developed. Carver then developed 325 different uses for the extra peanuts-from cooking oil to printers ink. When he discovered that the sweet potato and the pecan also enriched depleted soils, Carver found almost 20 uses for these crops, including synthetic rubber and material for paving highways.

Inventor Bio

Born of slave parents in Diamond Grove, Missouri, Carver was rescued from Confederate kidnapers as an infant. He began his education in Newton County in southwest Missouri, where he worked as a farm hand and studied in a one-room schoolhouse. He went on to excel at Minneapolis High School in Kansas. Though denied admission to Highland University because of his race, Carver gained acceptance to [Simpson College](#) in Indianola, Iowa, in 1887.

Intent on a science career, he transferred to Iowa Agricultural College (now [Iowa State University](#)) in 1891 and gained a B.S. in 1894 and an M.S. in agriculture in 1897. Later that year Booker T. Washington, founder of the Tuskegee Institute, convinced Carver to come south and serve as the school's director of agriculture. Upon his death, Carver contributed his life savings to establish a research institute at Tuskegee. His birthplace was declared a national monument in 1953.

overview <
search <
induction information <
invention channels <