



# BLACK HISTORY MOMENT



Ralph E. Brock

Ralph E. Brock was born on February 15, 1881. Brock was among the first class of foresters to graduate from the Pennsylvania State Forestry Academy (now Penn State Mont Alto) in 1906. He is believed to be the first African American to be trained in the field of forestry in the United States.

Upon graduation, Brock served as the Mont Alto State Forest Nursery Superintendent from 1906 to 1911. He established and oversaw a nursery, where records indicate he perfected the idea of using compost as an amendment to maintain healthy soil. A historic marker about Brock's life can be found at the Penn State Mont Alto campus. ([PA Conservation Heritage](#))

#BlackHistoryMonth

