



MARY HUNT



Mary Hunt was a laboratory technician who worked at the USDA Northern Regional Research Laboratory in 1943. After the initial discovery of penicillin by Alexander Fleming, the great task became to isolate the drug and mass produce it.

Laboratory workers were tasked with finding a strain of *Penicillium* that would allow mass production of the penicillin drug. Several accounts claim that Hunt found a “pretty, golden” moldy cantaloupe that was later found to be infected with *Penicillium chrysogenum*. This strain was able to produce more penicillin than the previous identified strain by Alexander Fleming. This key discovery allowed the mass production of penicillin that became important for treating soldiers in World War II.

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