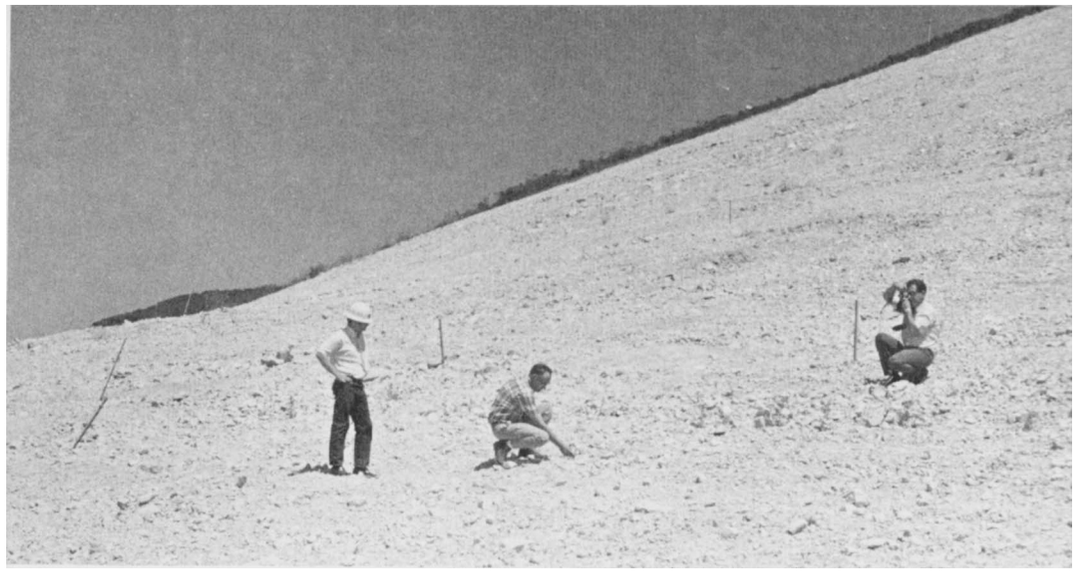

Ornamental seeding aids rugged area landscaping

Establishing foliage for beautification and land stabilization along highways and other denuded areas (such as the area shown above, in San Luis Obispo County) is being aided by plant scientists at University of California, Davis. Richard Harris, Frank Chan, and Andrew Leiser of the Department of Horticulture have developed ways to grow dozens of varieties of trees and shrubs from seed under rugged conditions—often far from their natural locations, without irrigation and little-or-no care after planting. At least 40 of the 100 species of trees and shrubs included in these trials show promise for mass planting along highways or in recreational wildlands. The blue oak from the Sierra foothills has been one of the best performers, withstanding drought, infertile soil and weed competition. Others showing particular promise in direct seeding trials include blue elderberry, western redbud, Catalina cherry, and ceanothus, as well as those shown to left: Acacia decora "graceful wattle" (top photo), and Eucalyptus lehmannii "bushy yate" (lower photo).

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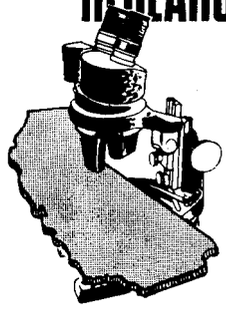
RESEARCH PREVIEWS



A continuing program of research in many aspects of agriculture is carried on at University campuses, field stations, leased areas, and many temporary plots loaned by cooperating landowners throughout the state. Listed below are some of the projects currently under way, but on which no formal progress reports can yet be made.

RODENT GOURMETS?

Experiments at Davis indicate that rodents are capable of selecting or rejecting foods on the basis of odor alone. This frequently enables rodents to survive poisoning programs, for once subjected to sublethal amounts of a given poison, many individuals learn to shun that type of bait. It will take a different bait base and rodenticide with different tastes and odors to lure these rodents again.

•

BETTER ARID-REGION CEREAL GRAINS

Agronomists at Riverside are attempting to incorporate genes into cereal grain varieties that will make them more suitable for growing in arid regions.

•

CODLING MOTH SEX TRAPS

Sex traps for monitoring moth populations were tested in apple, pear, and walnut orchards in five counties. Their use provided a basis for determining need for and proper timing of control measures. The results were very encouraging but additional work is being hampered by lack of financial support.