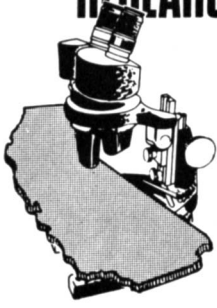


RESEARCH PREVIEWS



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.

CANTELOUPE IMPROVEMENT

A number of projects being carried out at the West Side Field Station, near Five Points, are aimed at improving canteloupe varieties. One study is an effort to concentrate maturity of the melons over a shorter period, so mechanical picking would be feasible. Another involves finding the unnamed disorder responsible for reducing fruit sugars in the melons from a normal 12 to 13 per cent to 7 to 8 per cent.

MECHANICAL OLIVE HARVEST

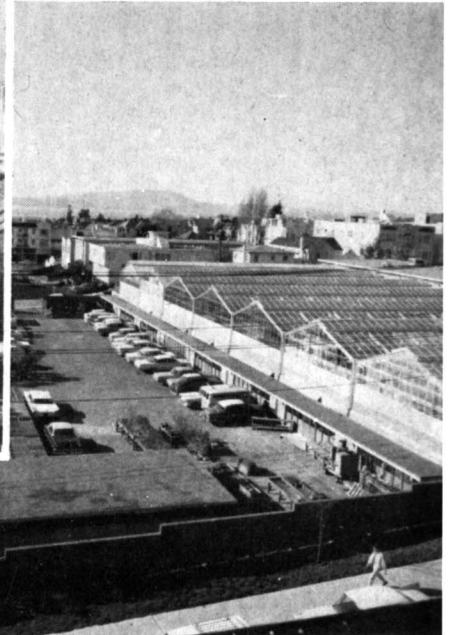
Pomologists from Davis are testing a number of chemicals that can be applied as foliar sprays that will cause loosening of olive fruits for easier mechanical harvesting. Several show promise, but not under weather conditions normally expected at harvest time.

AN EDITORIAL VIEW

With this issue, CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE inaugurates a page of comments by administrators and staff members of the Agricultural Experiment Station. Our purpose is to give those who administer agricultural research programs and researchers themselves an opportunity to give you some of their ideas on the solution of agriculture's problems in California. They will also express their views of our responsibilities to California's consumers and taxpayers and their thoughts about future aims and priorities in research. Each month you will hear from one administrator or staff member. We hope this feature will help the communication of ideas from the University of California to the public. We also hope it will stimulate our readers and encourage them to return their ideas to us.

OXFORD TRACT

University of California, Berkeley



PHOTOS ABOVE show two views of the unusual "second floor" greenhouse at Oxford Tract near the University of California's Berkeley campus. The ground floor of the structure contains extensive laboratory facilities including climate control chambers and other specialized equipment for agricultural research. Oxford Tract was acquired by the University in 1923 and the greenhouse and facilities pictured were built in 1959.

insectary (not pictured) at the Tract have studied insect control problems in many crops, including forests, with recent emphasis on biological and integrated control methods.

Plant pathology

Researchers in plant pathology at the Tract have been involved in some of the most advanced research projects—both basic and applied—including work on tobacco or tomato mosaic virus; fungicidal control of rusts and mildews; transmission of plant viruses; the ecology and control of bacterial diseases in orchards; pear decline research; and root diseases, including *Armillaria mellea*, the oak root fungus. Sugar beet growers are also benefiting from the current research on curly top.

Soil scientists have determined the nutritional requirements of many plants and the causes of various nutritional deficiencies. Entomologists working in the nearby

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