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HONEY MARKETING, by Frederick W. Bauer, Bul. 776.

WATER MANAGEMENT IN RICE PRODUCTION, by Dwight C. Finrock, Franklin C. Raney, Milton D. Miller, and Lawrence J. Booher, Leaf. 131.

Improvement of

NONDORMANT ALFALFA

Research on the development of superior varieties of alfalfa adapted to the desert valley areas is being conducted along many lines at the Imperial Valley Field Station. However, major emphasis is being placed on the development of a nondormant—Africa type—alfalfa which is resistant to the spotted alfalfa aphid and which will also yield well throughout the year.

Selection of plants resistant to the spotted alfalfa aphid was begun soon after this insect was found in the United States in 1954. Good selection techniques were soon developed and many sources of resistance were found in the nondormant alfalfas. Because of this, it has been possible to select a relatively high number of desirable plants which are resistant to the spotted alfalfa aphid. These plants are now being tested for yield, plant type, and resistance to diseases and other insects.

In the desert valley areas annual production is affected considerably by the varieties' ability to produce during the winter and late summer. Plants are being selected out of named varieties, crosses, and introductions which grow well during these adverse seasons. Progeny of these plants are then tested with adapted varieties and only the parent plants whose progeny outyield the adapted varieties throughout the year are retained. Parent material is now available which meets this standard. The present problem is to find the combination of parents which will give the best yield plus a good combination of other characters.—W. F. Lehman, Dept. of Agronomy, Davis.



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University of California College of Agriculture, Agricultural Experiment Station, Berkeley 4, California

Paul J. Sharp.
Director

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