

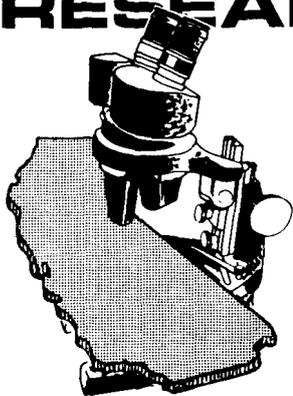
# DESERT PLANT RESEARCH University of California Los Angeles



ONE OF THE SEVERAL agricultural projects still underway in the Department of Agricultural Sciences at the University of California, Los Angeles, is a study of desert plants, under the direction of Arthur Wallace, Professor of Plant Nutrition. Photos here show concrete enclosed outdoor beds containing several plant species from the northern Mojave Desert, and (in the greenhouse) clonal selections of desert holly, *Atriplex hymenelytra* with the rooted cuttings showing differences in growth habit. The desert holly and several other species under investigation for adaptability have possible ornamental value in low-maintenance landscaping.



## 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.

### INCREASING LETTUCE YIELD

Long-term experiments on fertilizers designed to improve vegetable production are part of a program being carried out at Davis and at various field stations. Studies conducted at the Imperial Valley Field Station indicate that heavy annual applications of phosphorus on winter let-

tuce can increase yield and hasten maturity.

### BETTER PLANT USE OF WATER

Water studies undertaken by scientists in the Department of Water Science and Engineering at Davis aimed at more efficient use of water, have disclosed important information about stomata, the microscopic valves on leaves which con-

trol photosynthesis and water loss. This will be important in future efforts to modify plants chemically or genetically to maximize photosynthesis and minimize need for water.

### CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE

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