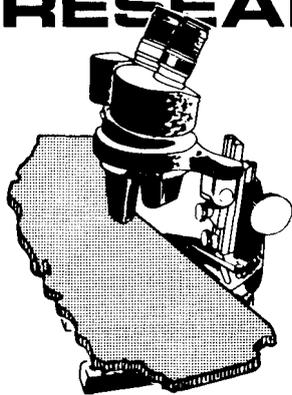


# RESEARCH PREVIEWS



## NEW SUNFLOWER FOR OIL

Agronomists at Davis are testing a new variety of sunflower introduced from Iran which shows promise as an oil crop for California conditions.

## GREENBUG CONTROL ON SORGHUM

Davis entomologists have been instrumental in setting up test plots from Butte to Kern counties in addition to plots on the Davis campus, in an attempt to find control methods for the greenbug—currently the most important aphid pest on grain sorghums in California.

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.

## WASPS VS WALNUT APHID

*Trioxys pallidus*, an imported wasp that attacks the walnut aphid is thriving and multiplying in several parts of California and is showing promise of being an effective parasite of the aphid.

## MECHANICAL PACKING OF MELONS

Agricultural economists and engineers have developed a pilot mechanized packing shed to help evaluate improved methods of shipping mature cantaloupes. Results to date are encouraging.

## BIRDS VS FOREST INSECTS

Forest entomologists from Berkeley have found that an old European technique of providing nesting boxes for birds (in this case the mountain chickadee) helps increase bird populations which in turn may help control forest insects.

## COMPUTERIZED DEER HERD MANAGEMENT

Oregon and California investigators are cooperating in a project aimed at developing information that can be fed into a computer which will, in turn, provide answers to various deer management problems. If successful, this simulation technique which is now being used for local areas, can be applied to a much wider field.

## BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF TANSY RAGWORT

Attempts to introduce a seed destroying fly for the control of tansy ragwort appear headed for success along the north coast region.

## PAKMOR AND CALMART—

### *two new disease-resistant tomatoes*

PAKMOR AND CALMART, two new fresh-market tomato varieties, have been released to California tomato growers.

Pakmor (experimental designation, 67V18) is early maturing and has a medium small, determinate-type vine with fairly good cover. The fruit are large, with the highest per cent of fruit in the 5 × 6 and 6 × 6 sizes. The shape is deep flat, with some shoulder roughness and stylar scarring. The shoulder color is medium green. It is resistant to fusarium and verticillium wilts. Compared with the standard Earlypak 7 variety, Pakmor can be harvested nearly a week earlier, with equal yields and superior fruit sizes. The main value of Pakmor will be in permitting an earlier start for spring harvests in the Imperial and San Joaquin Valley tomato areas.

Calmart (experimental designation, 68N153) is a midseason, determinate type, maturing a few days later than Earlypak

7 in the spring, and a few days earlier in the fall. Foliage cover is fairly good, and the set is concentrated. The fruit are globular, very firm and smooth, with no stylar scars. The unripe fruit are a uniform green. Sizes peak at 6 × 6. This variety is resistant to fusarium and verticillium wilts and the root-knot nematode. Yields have been comparable to those of present commercial varieties. This variety appears most suited to growing without stakes in the Central Valley.

Seed for trial plantings of either Pakmor or Calmart can be obtained by writing to the Department of Vegetable Crops, University of California, Davis, California 95616.—*Paul G. Smith, Professor, and Archie H. Millett, Laboratory Technician, Department of Vegetable Crops, University of California, Davis; R. W. Scheuerman, Assistant Agriculturist, Merced County; and O. D. McCoy, Associate Specialist in Vegetable Crops, Imperial Valley Field Station, El Centro. Bernarr*

*J. Hall, Ray C. King, David Ririe, Vincent H. Schweers, and Adolph Van Maren, Farm Advisors, Agricultural Extension Service, assisted in testing these varieties.*

#### CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE

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