New Program of Research On Olive Cultural Problems

R. T. Harrisson

One problem which has plagued olive growers since antiquity is the irregular bearing nature of olive trees. A really significant crop of olives is a very rare occurrence, and the flowers drop soon after opening. This has been determined to be due to abortion of the pistil—female part of the flower—which occurs before the flowers open. To overcome this, various fertilizers have been tried. Spray applications of some of the new synthetic "hormones" are being tested for their value in preventing this pistil abortion.

Flower-Bud Formation

A study of the flower-bud formation in the olive has already revealed that it occurs about the middle of March. This is such an early date that it is to be expected that there will be little difference between varieties or between plants within any one variety. One of the most encouraging conditions of the flower-bud formation is the fact that it generally takes place during the summer or fall preceding the bloom the next year.

Rootstock Investigations

An investigation dealing with the response of olive varieties grown on various rootstocks is also underway.

A collection of land at the Wolfskill Experimental Orchard at Winters will be used for this study. Trees will be grown on as many as six rootstocks. These rootstocks have been propagated in California, as shown in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rootstock</th>
<th>Measurements</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aiken clay loam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holland sandy loam</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Coast red</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Coast</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Central</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>North Central</td>
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To date in California 380 different olive varieties have been propagated. In California there are over 1,000 recognized soil types. In order to ensure that the available rootstocks are being established at the Wolfskill Experimental Orchard, information on varieties and rootstocks is growing there, most of which have been secured from the United States Department of Agriculture.

Vigorous varieties used as rootstocks in some of the Mediterranean countries will also be tried as well as new rootstocks now being used in California.

Collection of Varieties Under Study

A collection of olive varieties is under way, representing certain conditions or plant family. The present material consists of about 100 different olive varieties and rootstocks. The following are among the most important: Calabria, which is derived from sedimentary rock alluvium; the formerly cultivated zone, which is the same as the Mediterranean coast; and the olive species native to the Middle East, which is classified as a subject for the investigation of new species.

Over 110 Recognized Soil Types Represented in Twelve Regions Of State's 100,000,000 Acres

E. Earl Steere

The new School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California will be housed in a specially designed group of buildings on the Davis campus of the College of Agriculture, as shown in the above architect's drawing.

Professional training will be offered in the form of a four-year curriculum, in addition to the two-year pre-professional course, and the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine will be conferred. Classes will be limited in number to the facilities available, probably in the neighborhood of 40 students per class.

Practical facilities for research and teaching will be provided, forming a thorough understanding of their respective fields of specialization.

Improved Forage Grasses To Be Put To Field Trials

G. E. Gates Jr.

More than fifty new strains of forage grasses have been produced during the past year by research on hybridizing selected species. A large number of these new strains are potential new species.

A total of 50 new strains resulted from studies made at the California Agricultural Experiment Station and at the University of California. These new grasses have been cultivated in the field experiments, and the results are awaited with interest.

Survey Findings

There is a predominance of winter growing annuals and perennials all over the world, and a scarcity of available perennial grasses. Outdoor forage produce in this region is an important factor in the economy of the country.

In the United States, where the grasses have been cultivated, there is a predominance of winter growing annuals and perennials, and a scarcity of available perennial grasses. Outdoor forage produce in this region is an important factor in the economy of the country.