



MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

AUGUST 1955.- August rains, like those of July, have been heavy, with a bit more than 13 inches. The year's total to end of the month is 37.46 inches or as much as the annual fall for some years. The rainy season is only about half-over.

The number of guests visiting the school during the month has been higher than normal. Most delegations attending the "VII Campeonato Centroamericano y del Caribe de Fútbol," which was held in Tegucigalpa, visited the school and we were glad to have them.

The vegetable gardens and orchards are progressing well under the care of Mario Jalil, Eduardo Jiménez and Juan Leiva.- Mario reports that more than 6,000 grafted trees and roses have been distributed this year in Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua, with a few to other countries. Mangos, avocados, oranges, lemons, limes and roses accounted for most of the plants given away. Veneer grafting has been used extensively here for the first time on avocados and mangos. It has proven unexpectedly successful, with about 95% take on avocados and about 90% on mangos, which are normally difficult to graft. New mango and avocado orchards are being prepared now. The mango orchard will be planted with ten varieties of "Florida Mangos" received through the kindness of John Lynch of the University of Miami.- Eduardo, who has only recently returned here after taking a master's degree at the University of Florida, is getting started with problems involved in producing vegetables for use of students and staff. Methods for control of diseases and pests of garden crops is now occupying much of his time. Some new ideas on nematode control will be tried as soon as possible.- Juan Leiva, who has been assistant for two years, will leave soon to continue his studies in the University of Florida.

Francisco Sierra, in addition to class work, is beginning a study of our soils, both mechanical and chemical analyses, with the idea of providing information on the capacity of the soils to hold plant nutrients. A rational fertilization program could develop from this study. Analyses of stock feeds are also made in the "soils" lab.

Biology, both zoology and botany, basic to an understanding of many agricultural problems, is taught by Professors Manuel Chávez Viaud and Antonio Molina. Manuel also has charge of sanitation on school property.

The collections and library in the science building are progressing normally with Dr. Paul C. Standley, Professor Antonio Molina and Dr. Louis O. Williams working there. The herbarium now contains 60,000-70,000 specimens of plants from Central America and Panama.- The library is possibly the best in Central America on science and travel and most scientists visiting Central America come here to use it.- Volume 4, number 5, of our scientific journal CEIBA has just gone in the mail.- Dr. Williams is working on a check list of orchids of Central America and Panama which should be published before the end of the year.