



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

JUNE 1952. Three new students from the Dominican Republic, one from Ecuador, and one from Yucatan arrived during the month, thus completing the first-year class. One Honduran and one Venezuelan member of this class dropped out.

In our Monthly News Letter for August 1951 we mentioned the work being done here by George Freytag, a post-graduate student under Dr. Edgar Anderson of the Missouri Botanical Garden. Upon leaving at the middle of this month to return to the United States Mr. Freytag prepared the following memorandum which we think may be of general interest:

"Trials of various vegetables, the cultivation of which have presented problems at Escuela Agricola Panamericana, were commenced in 1951. In the main, the problems were climatic factors and several diseases. It was planned to test as many varieties as possible which had not previously been grown at the school.

"It is to be understood that the recommendations which follow are based on experience under the climatic and soil conditions of this location. The altitude is 800 meters; the soils are clay loams, sandy clays and clays of volcanic origin, at times probably deficient in nitrogen, and according to laboratory analyses, low in phosphorous. The rainy season which begins about June 1st is followed by the cool season, which in turn is followed by the verano or hot, dry season. The average minimum temperature is 14 degrees Cent., and the average maximum 30 degrees. Both rainfall and relative humidity vary greatly; average rainfall for June is about 8 inches. It then drops off and climbs to similar figures in September and October. From December to May the monthly rainfall is less than one-half inch. For the year the average is somewhat above 40 inches.

"Tomatoes gave and still give the greatest trouble under cultivation. Most of these difficulties are due to rots and wilts caused by various fungi and bacteria. The variety which has given the best all around results is Scarlet Dawn. Jubilee and Break O'Day will outyield Scarlet Dawn in the hot dry season. In the rainy season S-26 from Purrialba, Costa Rica, gives the best results though the fruits are very small.

"The lettuce variety recommended is Woodruff's A-36 which has a better quality head than does the old stand-by Great Lakes. Onions which readily form bulbs during the season (February through April) are Excel and Louisiana Red Creole. Red Core Chantenay and Imperial Coreless produce good carrots if soil conditions are right, however, if the soil is hard as in the dry season better results may be obtained by using the variety Oxheart. Sweet peppers which do well are California Wonder which produces a large and succulent fruit and Burlington which is smaller but of better flavor. Good green beans may be obtained by using the varieties Tendergreen, Idaho Refugee, and Jamaica.

"The following vegetable varieties were also tested but showed very little difference in performance. The varieties recommended were chosen more as a matter of personal preference. Resistant Golden Cre is a very early and highly flavored cabbage. Though all turnip varieties tested did exceptionally well the variety White Flat Dutch was chosen as having the best flavor. No varieties of Rutabaga gave satisfactory results. The beet Early Wonder, in addition to having sweet tender roots, produced an abundance of greens of good color. The swiss chard varieties White Silver and Fordhook produced high quality and attractive greens."