

Hybrid Barley Opens New Door

When Dr. Thomas Ramage announced the development of the world's first hybrid barley, he opened a door towards greater, practically unlimited future progress in certain areas of agronomic research.

He won world-wide recognition for his research in developing this hybrid and we at the University of Arizona are proud to have him as one of us in the College of Agriculture. He is a cooperative U.S. Department of Agriculture employee.

Finding a way to alter the genetics so that he could release to you the new hybrid barley called Hembar has been something of a difficult problem in research. In one way, or another, a hybrid has been sought since hybrid corn and sorghum made their appearance and won such universal acceptance from the nation's growers.

While we have some of the world's finest growers in Arizona (see article in this issue, "Arizona Growers Lead Nation . . . Crop Yields Double in 25

Years," page 20) our objectives and efforts in the College of Agriculture are to do everything within the limits of research capabilities to help these growers in their record setting pace. Not, just to double yields, but to be as much help as possible in the improvement of their total economic programming. We devote most of our efforts toward this end through our research and extension programs.

And, the accomplishment of Dr. Ramage is one of those developments, not all of which make such a world-wide impact, as did the release of Hembar.

The fact that Hembar increases yields from 15 to 35 per cent is important now. But, also important for the future is his development of the new plant breeding technique of altering genetic makeup. This opens the door for development of other hybrids of crops with similar genetic makeup such as soybeans, and possibly others.

These shall be accomplished within the availability of our finances and physical resources.

While we are recognized for our excellent research and extension programs we've not ignored our students. They, too, are exceptional and come from fine Arizona families.

We, and they, feel that our teaching program — training them to be top quality agriculturists and scientists — is enhanced by the fact that such developments as Dr. Ramage's hybridization of barley reflects in our training of undergraduate and graduate students.

This editorial may seem immodest, but between the accomplishments of farmers and ranchers in Arizona and of our own College of Agriculture and the USDA we are becoming recognized as leaders in arid lands agriculture.

We have a right to be proud! All of us in Arizona Agriculture.

Harold E. Myers

Harold E. Myers, Dean
College of Agriculture
School of Home Economics

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