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*Figs. 3—9 at the end of the issue.*

## BOOK REVIEW

DREGNE, H. E., WILLIS, W. O. (ed.): DRYLAND AGRICULTURE. — American Society of Agronomy Inc., Crop Science Society of America, Inc., Soil Science Society of America, Inc., Publishers, Madison 1983. 622 pp. US $ 35.00.

The new volume of the very useful series "Agronomy" is devoted to agriculture in areas where deficiency of water is a major limitation to plant production. Crops on these lands, commonly known as drylands, use only water stored in soil from winter or previous fallow year and from insufficient or irregularly divided rainfalls. The success of dryland agriculture depends primarily on the weather during vegetation period, which can be highly variable from year to year. But improved tillage practices, better adapted cultivars, better management techniques and other advances in soil and water conservation methods that have been achieved through research, have added considerable stability to the dryland production. Even with the best procedures, dryland farming is a risky enterprise with the possibility of drought, hail, high winds and destructive storms. In spite of these conditions, the semiarid and subhumid drylands provide a significant portion of the world's production of wheat, grain sorghum, millet, corn, cotton, peanut, pea and bean.

In North America, to which the book is devoted, drylands occupy the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta in Canada, and the central and western USA west of the Mississippi River. As climatic and soil conditions in this area significantly differ, in the introductory section drylands are divided into crop production regions in which different water and soil conservation and crop management practices are suitable. The next three sections named "Water conservation", "Soil concervation" and "Cropping practices" are introduced and some of them also closed by theoretical chapters and chapters on general aspects, but essential are the chapters providing detailed supplemental information about practices that may be necessary and successful in different regions of North America. The fifth section deals in three chapters with weed control, insect, mite pests and diseases of major crops, and the sixth section is devoted to economics and sociology. The last section is a very useful glossary of common and scientific names of plants, diseases, pathogens and insects. The book is complemented by a voluminous Subject index (16 pages) involving common names of plant diseases and insects. Although the publication is devoted mainly to problems of agriculture on drylands in North America, readers from other continents find in it a wealth of useful information and suggestions applicable also in other parts of the world.

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