Form C-30m-8,'52(A292)

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

PROJECT NO. 1686

REPORTED BY F. E. Broadbent

Davis: Soils & Plant Nut.

Campus and Division or Department

DATE January 1957

Annual Summary Statement of Progress for year ending Dec. 31, 56.
This Summary is in addition to, not in place of, more complete reports of progress prepared periodically and at least once a year with a deadline of Feb. 1.

Title: Summary of 1956 work on peat soils

Personnel: F. E. Broadbent

Principal results of year:

Experiments designed to evaluate rate of biological oxidation of organic soils in relation to the subsidence problem have been performed. By extrapolating CO_2-production figures obtained in 30 day experiments, maximum possible yearly loss figures on the order of 18-135 were obtained. Assuming 2 ft. of peat above the water table, this would account for 3-5 1/2 inches subsidence, which is close to observed values in the field.

A method for evaluating extent of loss in surface horizons of peat soils based on carbon and ash determinations of several horizons within a profile has been tried on a few profiles. Agreement between measured and calculated carbon content in surface horizons is good, indicating that the basic assumptions involved in the method are valid.

Detailed information on this work is given in the annual report for project 1681

Publications:

(If more space is needed, use back of this sheet.)

D—029622

D-029622