Management of Nitrogen in the Pacific States

It is well recognized that diversity of cropping patterns and management practices in an agricultural area are dictated by variations that exist in climate and soils. The Pacific states are especially varied in both climate and soils, the latter a function of the former. This variability leads to the great differences that are encountered in the crops adapted to the region and affects the practices one uses to increase the efficiency of N use in agricultural production.

I. THE REGION

A. Climate

The climate for a major portion of the Pacific states is predominantly "Mediterranean." There is usually little or no summer rainfall and the temperatures seldom reach the extremes of hot or cold. For other areas, there are wide climatic differences ranging from typically alpine to hot desert conditions. For a major portion of the crop-production areas of the region the soils are seldom frozen, allowing nitrification to occur year-round, thus increasing the potential for both denitrification and leaching.