



Opportunities for Research and Extension at

South Coast REC

Located on 200 acres in Orange County, South Coast Research and Extension Center (SCREC) and its mild winter climate are conducive to growing a wide range of crops. The urban character of SCREC provides the opportunity for analysis of issues at the agriculture-urban interface.

Center Focus

SCREC research is focused on a variety of area crops including avocado, citrus, and strawberries; turfgrass production and management; ornamental plant nursery production; integrated pest management; sustainable landscaping, and urban water management. SCREC offers the unique opportunity to use 100% recycled water. Research here has resulted in the development of several patents for strawberry and avocado varieties.

The SCREC Commitment

SCREC commits to the viability of long-term research projects. The constraints that might be imposed by a commercial grower or landowner are not present. UC ANR underwrites a significant portion of the cost of conducting research at the Center. On-site staff and conference facilities simplify hosting extension activities.

Support for Research, Extension and Education

- Resident water quality advisor
- Resident environmental horticulture advisor and outreach support
- Lab and agricultural technicians
- Numerous seasonal farm employees

Facilities and Services

- Research: lab for processing plant samples, compound and dissecting microscopes, six greenhouses, three demonstration landscapes to reduce water use and improve water quality, CIMIS weather station, farm machinery shop, germplasm collections of many subtropical plants; high-speed connectivity
- Extension and outreach: 70-seat conference room, 2 outdoor demonstration landscape classrooms with seating for up to 40

Research requests for land, labor and facilities are screened by a research advisory committee. For more information about conducting research at SCREC, visit <http://ucanr.edu/recforms> or call (949) 653-1810.



University of California

Agriculture and Natural Resources ■ **Research and Extension Center System**



South Coast RESEARCH & EXTENSION CENTER

7601 Irvine Boulevard
Irvine, CA 92718-1201
(949) 653-1810

Superintendent: Joanne Watkins
Director: Darren Haver
Office Manager: Kat Hicklin

<http://ucanr.edu/sites/screc/>

SCREC at a glance

200 acres

Medium-sloped, flat alluvial fan terrain;
400 feet above sea level

Climate

Coastal plain temperate zone

Annual Mean Precipitation: 13.16"

Summer max. mean temp.: 71.4°F

Winter min. mean temp.: 52.6°F

Soil series

Sorrento loam, very deep, neutral pH;

San Emigdio sandy loam, very deep,
moderately alkaline

Recent research topics from the South Coast REC:

Reducing insecticide runoff in cities

By studying runoff from concrete and other hardscapes under a variety of conditions, SCREC research aims to evaluate runoff potential and develop practices to mitigate contamination by pesticides and other pollutants.

Strawberry breeding for Southern California

The strawberry breeding project at SCREC continually seeks to develop improved strawberry cultivars with increased fruit quality and production efficiencies to ensure the continued competitive advantage of California's \$2 billion strawberry industry.

Potential for commercial production of Pitahaya (dragon fruit)

Pitahaya, or dragon fruit, is a vining cactus with an edible fruit popular among Southeast Asians and Latinos. Field trials are underway at SCREC to test the performance of 18 pitahaya varieties under Southern California growing conditions, and production and market information is being evaluated for commercial production.

"The RECs are a vital part in my program as a UC farm advisor. I can do research and demonstration plots at SCREC that would be otherwise impossible to do in a grower's field."

—Joe Nunez, Vegetable/Plant Pathology Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension

"In cooperation with the Center's professional and dedicated personnel, we are maintaining nematode-infested field sites that allow us to conduct cutting edge IPM research and outreach activities. These sites are important extensions of our laboratories and classrooms, where we can perform securely long-term research projects that would not be possible in a grower's field."

—J. Ole Becker, Cooperative Extension Specialist & Nematologist, UC Riverside

