



SCIENCE DIMENSION

VOLUME 15, NO. 5, 1983

Editor Wayne Campbell
Managing Editor Margaret Shibley Simmons
Art Editor Jean L. Richard
Photographer Bruce Kane
Print Coordinator Robert Rickerd
Art Production Carisse Graphic Design Ltd.
Printed in Canada by Beaugard Press Ltd.

31159-2-1019

Letters 4

Capsules 6

Cold Region Crops 10
Agriculture's northern challenge

Blue Aurora 18
Investigating earthspace

Acoustic Microscope 22
A new branch of microscopy

Up in Smoke 28
Fire research at NRC

SCIENCE DIMENSION



Cover:

Sunflowers in the arctic may seem like a far-off dream, but modern science's track record indicates that almost anything is possible. Canadian crop scientists are still a long way from realizing artist John Bianchi's surreal vision of northern agriculture, but progress is being made, particularly at the universities. On page 10, freelance writer Paul Tisdall describes work at the University of Manitoba aimed at breeding crops suited to the cool, short-season conditions of the Canadian Prairies.

Science Dimension (ISSN 0036-830X) is published six times a year by the Public Relations and Information Services of the National Research Council of Canada. Material herein is the property of the copyright holders. Where this is the National Research Council of Canada, permission is hereby given to reproduce such material providing an NRC credit is indicated. Where another copyright holder is shown, permission for reproduction should be obtained from that source. Enquiries should be addressed to: The Editor, *Science Dimension*, NRC, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1A 0R6. Tel. (613) 993-3041. Indexed in the Canadian Periodical Index. This publication is available in microform. Cette publication est également disponible en français et porte le nom de *Dimension Science*.