In the collection of agricultural information, either by census methods or by systematic investigation, there should be some fundamental basis of reference. The thesis which I am to develop is that in the collection of all field data with reference to farm conditions and improvements the soil survey should be the basis upon which such facts and principles must finally be correlated. This thesis rests upon two well-recognized principles: First, that plants differ in their requirements for best growth and developments; second, that the character of the soil determines in large measure the way in which the conditions of plant growth are fulfilled, and thereby directly influences not only the growth of any particular plant, but also determines the plants which will succeed best—i.e., the crop adaptation of the soil.

The acceptance of these principles involves the recognition that the method of soil classification must be determined by the purpose