THE FARM CROPS LABORATORY

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It is the purpose of this paper to show in detail some of the equipment and practices that have tended to raise the efficiency of the laboratory teaching of farm crops at the University of Nebraska. It is not the purpose of the writer to give the impression that the ideas set forth in this paper are perfect and that this is the only way to handle these situations. It is believed, however, that some of these points will be of interest to others in the field and that this paper may stimulate the publishing of new and old ideas that would be of value to teachers of farm crops.

The general location, the size, the equipment, and the proper organization of the laboratory are some of the most important factors in the successful handling of students in any laboratory. Since there is so much bulky material used and since crops bundle material is almost sure to shatter and litter up the stairs and halls of a building, it is better to have a crops laboratory on one of the lower floors. If it is necessary to have a laboratory on the second or third floor, or if the laboratory is on a different floor than the storeroom, an elevator is always a valuable asset.

The dissection of grass and legume flowers and the study of small seeds are usually a part of the laboratory procedure. It is therefore necessary that this room have the very best light available. A corner room is usually to be preferred since light comes in from two sides. Large, unobstructed windows, and as many of them as possible, will aid materially in holding the interest of students. A south room is usually to be preferred over a north room because on dark, cloudy days a north room becomes so dark that study and close examination