MASON JARS AS MINIATURE SILOS

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In connection with certain varietal and cultural investigations with maize conducted at the West Virginia Experiment Station, it was found desirable to make determinations of yields of silage. This could not be done easily unless a method was found whereby it would not be necessary to handle a relatively large sample of the crop from each group of plats similarly treated or planted to the same variety. The silage was to be used for making a chemical analysis only, and therefore, but a small sample was required. The problem then was to work out a method which would be used to convert a small sample of corn forage into silage comparable to that usually formed in an ordinary silo.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Small wooden or metal silos as well as glass jars have been used by a number of investigators in studying silage formation. Where sealed jars have been used, provision has usually been made for allowing excess gasses to escape. The use of small silos and jars for making silage in the laboratory has usually been reported as giving very satisfactory results.

Babcock and Russell (1) used galvanized iron receptacles containing about 200 pounds of corn forage each in studies on silage formation. These receptacles were filled and sealed, but provision was made...