The purpose of this paper is to state somewhat in brief the general practices now followed by tobacco growers in the Connecticut Valley section of Massachusetts, to indicate certain problems confronting the grower in the production of quality tobacco, to summarize the nature and recent findings of tobacco investigational work as it pertains to this section, to state the mediums of contact between the farmer and the research worker which obtains at present in Massachusetts for the dissemination of information, and to suggest the scope for an Extension program to supplement the research work in securing the adoption of those practices recently found to be practical.

Tobacco is a highly specialized crop, the value of which is particularly associated with quality. Distinctive soil characteristics, as well as climatic conditions, primarily determine the types of tobacco which may be grown and the purposes for which they are eventually used. Because of the effects of soil and climate, the region lying within the Connecticut Valley is one of several in the United States specializing in the raising of tobacco for cigars.

The tobacco soils of Massachusetts may be designated in general as being fine sandy loam the result of alluvial and lakeside deposits.

Tobacco growers in this region of relatively light soil fertilize heavily. Unlike certain other tobacco areas, good quality may accompany high yields in this district. The general practice among growers is to apply 3,000 to 4,000 pounds to the acre of fertilizer which would approximate a 6-3-6 ratio. Where manure is available, it is used commonly in addition to the fertilizer mentioned, and tobacco stalks often are returned to the land.

The fertilizers used for tobacco generally are made up to supply about half of the total nitrogen from organic materials of which cottonseed meal and castor pomace are most commonly employed. Concerning the various other carriers of plant food used to supplement cottonseed or pomace, there exists a considerable range of materials supplying nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and magnesium. Mention should be made in this connection of three materials, perhaps the most extensively used in other crop fertilizers, against which the tobacco grower is prejudiced because of a belief in