NOTE

A SATISFACTORY GRINDER FOR PREPARING PLANT TISSUE FOR RAPID CHEMICAL TESTS

ONE of the obstacles in the way of the advancement of rapid chemical analyses in plant tissue tests has been a satisfactory method of obtaining an accurately extracted sample. By the use of a “liquifier” (Waring Corp., 1697 Broadway, N. Y.)\(^1\) a most satisfactory emulsified sample can be obtained.

The author has found the following procedure satisfactory. Place 5 grams of roughly chopped plant tissue or stems (even very woody tissue is readily emulsified) in the container, add 100 mls of sodium acetate solution (pH 5.0), 0.125 N for sodium and 0.167 N for acetate, and \(\frac{1}{4}\) teaspoonful of charcoal (Darco brand) and run the machine from 3 to 5 minutes. The liquified mass is then filtered through No. 1 Whatman filter paper.

Tests for various constituents are carried out as described for soil tests in Bulletin 95, Virginia Truck Experiment Station. However, in the case of potash further dilution of the extract is necessary.—

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\(^1\)Several other makes of similar equipment are available.