LABORATORY WORKBOOK FOR FIELD CROP PRODUCTION


The laboratory workbook is divided into the four principal sections of (1) introduction, (2) the nature of field crops, (3) features of production applicable to all field crops, and (4) individual treatment of the various crops and plants.

The book is further divided into subheadings of: classification and significance of field crops; structure and functioning of a typical field crop plant; grasses and legumes; soil improvement and seedbed preparation; soil conservation and its effect on crop production; corn breeding and seed production; the small grains; small grain breeding and seed production; the main forage crops; growing and harvesting the forage crops; pastures; roots and tubers; oil and fiber crops; sugar plants; and tobacco.

The above chapters include considerable fundamental botany. Photosynthesis, germination of the grass and legume seedling, plant breeding, and botanical terminology are well presented. The authors have organized the material for easy presentation, and the material as prepared should hold student interest. There are over 150 drawings, maps, and photographic reproductions. Most of the material is presented for the student to fill in. Space is allowed for answers to be written directly into the workbook.

The book is so complete that few courses will use its entire substance. However, it is arranged so that given sections can be easily omitted. The book is attractively bound and printed on a good quality paper. The printing and reproduction of illustrative material are unusually clear.

The manual is intended primarily for collegiate teaching. However, considerable illustrative material is presented that would be helpful to most vocational agricultural high school courses. This appears to be the most usable laboratory workbook for field crops that the writer has yet seen. In most schools, its use will add considerably to the present field crops curriculum.

—GLENN C. KLINGMANN.

FREEDOM FROM WANT


A SYMPOSIUM sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, this booklet contains papers on food supply in relation to population, world soil and fertilizer resources, possibilities of crop and animal production, the economics of, and the obligations of science toward “freedom from want”. Brief biographical sketches of the authors H. R. Tolley, R. M. Salter, K. S. Quisenberry, F. B. Morrison, John D. Black, and M. A. McCall are appended. A foreword by N. E. Dodd and the editor’s preface complete the volume. Agronomists and others will find this series of papers stimulating reading although not necessarily agreeing with all the viewpoints expressed. In the present reviewer’s opinion, Dr. Black has stressed a point of attack on world hunger problems that is all too frequently ignored. If mankind is to progress toward an ever higher standard of living, he must find a way to control population pressure as well as to make technological advancements in the production of necessities.—R. J. GARBET.