
This is the tenth volume in this series prepared under the auspices of the American Society of Agronomy—all of them with the able editorial direction of A. G. Norman of the University of Michigan. Dr. Norman notes in the preface that 90 topics have been dealt with in the 10 volumes with little repetition or overlapping, but always with the central theme of soil-crop relationships. Quoting from the preface to Volume I, Dr. Norman states that "the editors' definition of what constitutes agronomy is catholic; they will be guided in their choice more by what information may be of use to agronomists than by what constitutes agronomy."

This latest issue continues the policy of including material on regional agriculture with a chapter covering agronomic trends and problems in the Great Plains. The contributions of six authors have been coordinated by R. V. Olson to cover the following topics: field crops, by E. G. Heyne; pasture and range crops, by J. R. Hartlan; soil moisture conservation, by J. C. Hide; soil fertility problems, by H. F. Rhoades; irrigation, by H. R. Haise; and wind erosion problems, by W. S. Chepil.

Another feature of the series has been articles in the general field of soil classification and morphology, as well as contributions from other countries. A chapter on Australian soils and their responses to fertilizers, by C. G. Stephens and C. M. Donald, continues this practice. In addition to soil classification, the authors discuss crop response to major and minor nutrient elements.

Space limitations permit only brief mention of the other chapters and authors, but this reviewer finds all of them concise, well-written, up-to-date reviews of topics with wide interest.

Soil scientists will be particularly interested in the chapters on: changing concepts of plant nutrient behavior and fertilizer use, by Werner L. Nelson and George Stanford; reactions of ammonia in soils, by M. M. Mortland; new grasses and legumes for soil and water conservation, by A. L. Hafenrichter; the role of sulfur in soil fertility, by H. V. Jordan and L. E. Ensminger; corn plant and animal nutrition. Compensation on commission basis, by research workers.

The first nine chapters deal with general concepts such as the requirements for a good experiment, reduction of error, randomization, number and size of experimental units, selection of experimental units, treatments and observations, factorial experiments and the simpler designs. The remaining chapters discuss more advanced topics such as incomplete block designs, confounding and fractional replication. The two chapters on factorial experiments present an excellent discussion of this important subject. Throughout, the author discusses in a thorough and readable manner many topics which are given too much prominence in other books on experimental design.

This book presents the basic statistical concepts underlying modern experimental design. The author has conscientiously avoided the use of statistical and mathematical formulas and the detailed presentation and analysis of data. He has concentrated largely in presenting the basic reasons underlying modern experimental design in a manner which should appeal to and be readily understood by research workers.

The book is well written, examples are well chosen and are drawn from many different fields of research. This book should prove extremely valuable as supplementary reading for students taking courses in statistics and experimental design and for individuals concerned with research.—JAMES H. TORRIE, University of Wisconsin.

Agronomic Affairs

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1959 ANNUAL MEETING
The 1959 Annual Meetings of ASA, CSSA, and SSSA will be held on November 16-20 at the Netherland Hilton and other hotels in Cincinnati, Ohio. Hotel reservation forms were sent out to all members in June. These forms should have been or should be sent to the Agronomy Housing Bureau, 714 Union Central Building, Cincinnati 2, Ohio. If this form is not available, reservations may be made by letter to this Housing Bureau, Attention of Mrs. Ruth Weaver.