Too little fertilizer will limit growth, I fear.
Circle all the tests that you want them to do.
I'll name the standard tests, there are just a few:
Regulars: N, P, and K, and texture by feel,
Special things like pH and sulfur—boy, what a deal!
Micros like zinc, iron, copper, and manganese.
They even test organic matter, if you please.

What tests to ask for? I bet you want to know!
Nitrogen—every year, to help your crops grow.
Since P and K stay about the same every year,
Test once, then in 4 years, amounts will still be clear.
What happens to your sample? What happens to your bag?
The lab puts it on a sorting table and gives it a tag.
Bags are carefully labeled, as you might surmise,
They grind each sample to less than one millimeter in size.
Soil is placed in beakers in four rows of ten.
Eleven is a “check” sample in front of the bin.
They already know the test results for each check soil.
They can set machine accuracy without lots of toil.
Each row also has a standard empty beaker.
Solutions put in this are zero, not stronger or weaker.
First each instrument will run a standard test.
If machines read correctly, the results will be best.

News and Announcements

Soil Survey Techniques Sessions at the 1985 ASA Meetings

Robert B. Grossman

Anyone interested in the National Cooperative Soil Survey is invited to two sessions on soil survey techniques at the 1985 Annual Meetings of the American Society of Agronomy in Chicago, IL on December 1–6. There will be an evening workshop on Tuesday, December 3, followed Wednesday morning by a symposium.

The Tuesday evening sessions will be informal. People are invited to make a presentation (up to 5-minutes long) with slides or overhead projection. Discussion will be encouraged. The idea is to provide an opportunity to present ideas and experience about soil survey techniques in a less formal setting than the standard paper presentation. If you have any interest in giving a presentation, contact the chair, Robert B. Grossman, by November 1.

The Wednesday morning session is a symposium of invited 15-minute papers that cover a wide range of new approaches in the soil survey, with