Cultivating Agarics in the Student Laboratory*

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ABSTRACT

Unless there is a nearby mushroom farm, willing to supply materials, it is difficult to grow Agaricus bisporus in a teaching facility. However, various Pleurotus and Coprinus species can be grown under rather primitive conditions and at little cost. Straw often contains Coprinus that needs only be encouraged. Pleurotus also grows well on straw that has been only pasteurized. Various plastic containers can be used to hold the substrate and a loose fitting plastic bag can maintain high humidity. Best of all, the experimental results are edible. All of the materials and steps required to grow mushrooms for demonstration or as a student experiment are discussed.

Key words: Teaching, Pleurotus, Coprinus, Volvariella, mushroom cultivation