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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