
METHODS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF CERTAIN HALLUCINOGENIC AGARICS

(ABSTRACT)

Leon R. Kneebone
Pennsylvania State University

Since research on commercial mushrooms had been conducted continuously for the past thirty years at the Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station, requests were received to provide sporocarps of a number of species of hallucinogenic mushrooms.

Initially, the conventional methods of commercial mushroom production were used, namely, (1) the preparation of a compost consisting chiefly of horse manure, (2) the preparation of spawn of each species of interest on hand, (3) the planting of the spawn in the pasteurized compost, (4) the application of a layer of sterilized loam after the spawn had grown through the compost, and finally, (5) managing the crop to obtain a maximum harvest. Satisfactory quantities of *Psilocybe cubensis*, *Panaeolus sphinctrinus*, and *P. venenosus* were obtained.

Further efforts resulted in the production of *Copelandia caerulescens* on uncased horse manure compost. *Psi. aztecorum* was produced on an uncased compost consisting of supplemented sugar cane bagasse.

Psi. mexicana and *Psi. cubensis* produced sporocarps on potato-dextrose-yeast extract agar slants after several weeks of incubation and the latter also fruited on rye grain.