Brings together currently used methods related to biological nitrogen fixation. It is not a set of standard methods but is intended to provide a starting point for scientists entering the field for the first time, or for those who are changing their research activities within the field. It complements the many books and reviews about the current state of knowledge, which have been published recently.

The book begins with basic chapters about laboratory methods and progresses to subjects which are essential for field studies. Methods as widely separated as basic instruction for isolating and culturing diazotrophic microorganisms, methods for transferring DNA by means of plasmids and how to conduct a field experiment with nodulated legumes, are described in clear 'how to do it' terms.

Contents: Preface; Section I Introduction; Section II Laboratory Methods: The Cultivation of Diazotrophic Microorganisms; Measurement of Nitrogen Fixation by Direct Means; Measurement of Nitrogen Fixation by Indirect Means; Methods for Legumes in Glasshouses and Controlled Environment Cabinets; Non-legume Nodule Systems; Methods for Studying Nitrogenase; Methods for Studying Enzymes Involved in Metabolism Related to Nitrogenase; Preparation and Experimental Use of Leghaemoglobin; Methods for Identifying Strains of Diazotrophs; Genetic Studies with Diazotrophs; Section III Methods for Field Use: Experiments with Crop and Pasture Legumes — Principles and Practice; Production and Quality Control of Legume Inoculants; Forage Grasses and Grain Crops; Nitrogen Fixation in Natural Plant Communities and Soils; Systems Involving Blue-Green Algae (Cyanobacteria); References; Index.

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