

More Timothy Seed Than Can Be Used Is Made Available

Lower Prices Give Farmers Exceptional Chance To Get Best Quality.

The supply of timothy seed this year will far exceed the demand, consequently the price is lower than it has been for a long time and there is exceptional opportunity for farmers who require seed to purchase only the best quality. At the time of writing the price of No 1 seed in Montreal is \$4.50 per hundred pounds. This is 25 per cent. off the price demanded last season.

There is seldom any serious doubt regarding the germination of timothy seed, but too much attention cannot be paid to its purity or freedom from weed seeds. If a farmer buys a horse which turns out to be unsatisfactory for his purposes, he can dispose of it by some means, making the best of a bad bargain, and forget about the incident. Unfortunately the same cannot be done with a lot of seed for field crops which contains weed seeds. If weed infested seed is once put into the ground it cannot be forgotten as the weeds will be a continual reminder. This is particularly true if the weed seeds are from a perennial such as Ox-eye Daisy. This weed is mentioned because it is one of the weeds classed as Primary Noxious under the Seeds Act, and one which is very commonly found in timothy. The seed is difficult to remove during the process of cleaning, and easily passed over when a sample is being examined for impurities. Over 20 per cent of the samples from the 1934 crop which were analyzed in the Seed Laboratory at Ottawa contained Ox-eye Daisy. In these samples the average number of the seeds of this weed was 33.1 per ounce. Any lot of timothy seed containing this number of Ox-eye Daisy would be rejected as unfit for seed under the Seeds Act.

A simple calculation will show the number of Ox-eye Daisy seeds which would be sown per acre if this seed were used.

Since timothy seed is plentiful and the price low this season every care should be taken in the purchase and only the cleanest seed should find its way into the ground.

The Seed Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture aims to encourage the more general use of good seed by promoting the production of seeds of superior quality in Canada.

TWO METHODS USED FOR THE HOME CURING OF PORK

In the home curing of pork either the "dry salt" or the "brine" method may be employed, but in both cases, common salt is the curing agent, along with sugar, salt-petre, and baking soda. The old-fashioned brown sugar is preferred to the white granulated kind as it gives a slightly better flavor to the meat. A small quantity of salt-petre has a preservative effect and gives a reddish color to the meat. Baking soda is used with the brine cure.

Pork for curing should be cut up into convenient sizes, and it is important that all animal heat has been cooled out of the meat, and that the meat is not frozen when the curing is commenced. A cool, well-ventilated cellar is a desirable place for both methods. The curing is more easily controlled in cool weather, so that thick pieces may not have a chance to spoil. For beginners the brine cure is preferred because there is less likelihood of failure, but full information on the subject is contained in the booklet "The Home Curing of Pork" issued by the Dominion Department of Agriculture.

This booklet can be obtained by applying to the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Ontario.

AGRICULTURE

SEED SOLD IN DOMINION UNDER DEFINED GRADES OF QUALITY

Legislation Governs Sale of All Seed For Farm Use.

The sale of seeds for seeding purposes in Canada is controlled by provisions of the Seeds Act. The principle upon which this legislation is based is that of established grade names and grade definitions. The grade names are Registered No. 1, Registered No. 2 and Registered No. 3, and No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3. Registered grade names apply to seed derived from a crop which has been inspected in the field and found to comply with standards of purity of Variety, freedom from disease, and for which a Crop Registration Certificate has been issued by the Canadian Seed Growers' Association. Seed of a Registered grade is always sealed in the container with an authorized metal seal and bears a seed inspection certificate tag signed by an inspector. Seed derived from an inspected seed crop may also be graded No. 1 and sealed in containers in a similar manner when the seed crop is covered by a Seed Crop Certificate issued by the Seed Branch, Dominion Department of Agriculture. When seed is not sealed in the container it becomes general seed of commerce to which grade names No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 apply.

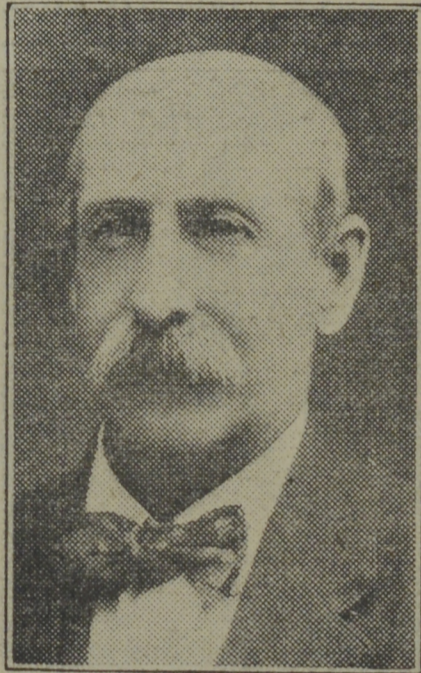
When a seed lot is to be graded and sealed in containers and given a Registered grade name or grade No. 1 (sealed), a duly authorized inspector visits the grower's premises or the cleaning plant and draws samples on which the grade is based. Where other grades are given they are based on samples known as "Control Samples." These are drawn by the seller of the seed and they should correctly represent the quality of the seed lot from which they are taken. If later the seed exposed for sale is found to be of lower quality and grade than the control sample, the seller is responsible. A seed grade definition is based on specified factors of quality, viz., the weed seed content of the sample, the presence of other kinds of crop seeds, germination or vitality and the general quality of the seed. General quality is largely determined by the thoroughness of cleaning and the removal of shrunken, shrivelled seeds and inert material.

When agricultural seeds are offered for sale for seeding purposes by anyone, the grade name and the certificate number employed as authority for the grade must be stated. This information, together with the name and address of the seller and the kind of seed, must be marked on the container or a label attached thereto. The grade and certificate number can be obtained only by forwarding a sample of the seed which it is intended to be offered for sale for test, to the District Dominion Seed Branch office. If this is done and the seed is given a grade the owner of the seed is then in a position to comply fully with the law when offering the seed for sale. On the other hand, the purchaser of seed should know its quality, the weed seeds it contains, the germination and its grade, all of which can be ascertained only by substituting a sample for test. To know the grade of seed is a protection to both the seller and the buyer and surely protects the farmer if he is to use the seed on his farm.

Now is the time to prepare for the ensuing seed selling season by having seed tested and graded. Samples sent for test and grade at this season will be in advance of the rush of work received later. A sample should be drawn carefully so as to represent correctly

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Experimenting



DR. SEAGAR WHEELER,

of Rosthern, Sask., former Canadian wheat king, has just completed experiments with a view to producing hardy strains of fruits. For fifteen years Dr. Wheeler has been experimenting with new varieties of fruits, and has now a fair prospect of apples, plums and cherries suitable to the prairie.

Recommendations In Selecting Beans And Peas For Seed

Results of the Tests Made in Nova Scotia Are Here Published.

(Experimental Farms Note)

Variety tests of field beans and peas have been conducted at the Dominion Experimental Farm, Nappan, Nova Scotia, for a number of years and while these crops are not grown very extensively in the province, larger areas might very well be given over to their cultivation.

In choosing the variety of beans to be grown, there are several factors that must be taken into consideration, namely, yield, time of maturity, resistance to disease and suitability for market.

Navy, a medium sized white bean, has given the highest yield over a five-year period and is mid-season in time of ripening. Should an early variety be desired, Norwegian can be recommended. This is a brown bean of medium size, but it is not as well liked on the market as the white varieties. Yellow Six Weeks, another colored variety, has yielded a little more than Norwegian, but is later in maturing. White Pea is recommended where a bean of the small white class is desired. It is also later in maturing than Norwegian or Navy. As a rule the colored varieties present a nicer appearance than the white ones, where there are so many heavy fall rains.

Field peas are high in protein and may be used to increase the percentage of protein in dairy and other rations.

Early Blue, an early, relatively short-vined variety, has given the highest yield over a period of five years, but has been fairly closely followed by Canadian Beauty and O.A.C. No. 181. The latter two varieties are ten to 12 days longer in maturing than Early Blue and are longer and heavier vined.

When farmers do not wish to grow peas alone they may mix them with oats or wheat. The latter crops help to hold the peas and make them easier to harvest.

Bees And Wasps Are Beneficial In Different Ways

Wasps Prey on Other Insects That Are Injurious.

(Experimental Farms Note)

When watching a wasp or bee drive home its weapon, one gets the impression that it is done in fiendish glee. Such an impression, however, is not correct, for these insects seldom attack except upon provocation of some kind, but unfortunately it is not always the guilty party who suffers. Bees and wasps are very closely related insects, and there are many species in each group, some of which live together in colonies, while others are solitary in their habits. The honeybee is the best example of the social bee; its colonies often consist of seventy-five thousand to one hundred thousand individuals, each of which honeybees is continuous from year to year. Normally a colony of honeybees is continuous from year to year. The bumble bee is another type of the social bee, but its colonies contain fewer individuals than the honeybee colony and are not continuous, since it is only the queens that live through the winter, and each queen starts a new colony in the spring. In addition to the social bees, there are numerous species of solitary bees that make their nests in many different places, but never form colonies, although several of these bees may congregate and build their nests in one locality. A common type of solitary bee is the leaf-cutter that takes semi-circles from the leaves of plants, chiefly rose bushes. These pieces of leaves are used for nest building.

There are also social and solitary wasps. The social wasps form colonies, and some build their nests either in a suitable cavity in the ground or in hollow logs or walls, while others build in the open, suspending their nests from the branches of trees or the eaves of buildings. The wasp colonies break up in the autumn and new ones start each spring. The solitary wasps build in the ground or in some suitable cavity elsewhere. One common type is the mud dauber that makes its nest of mud, attaching it to the rafters of buildings or some other convenient place. Wasp and hornet are synonymous terms, but the latter is usually applied to those wasps that build their nests in the open. Both bees and wasps are beneficial insects. Honeybees of course are well known. Bumble bees and solitary bees are useful for pollinating flowers, while the wasps are useful in that they prey on other insects that are injurious. The benefits derived from these insects far outweigh the occasional sting and transitory pain that may be inflicted by them.

APPLE EXPORTS

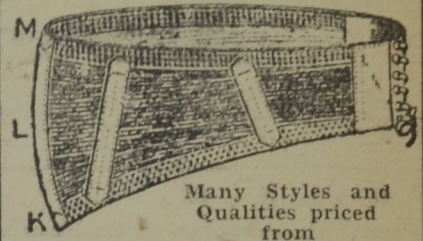
Exports of Canadian apples to the British Isles this season up to January 3, 1936, totalled 1,065,056 barrels and 1,816,948 boxes, compared with 731,757 barrels and 1,382,653 boxes in the corresponding period of last season, the increase this season being 46 per cent. on barrels and 31 per cent. on boxes.

PEDIGREE CERTIFICATES

The number of pedigree certificates registered by the Canadian National Livestock Records, approved by the Dominion Minister of Agriculture, during 1935 was 76,746. Of that number, 3,446 were horses; 36,133 cattle; 12,183 sheep; 7,846 swine; 7,907 foxes; 7,896 dogs; 1,215 poultry, and 120 goats.

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Poor Seed Helps The Wireworms In Ravages On Crops

Advice Given Prairie Farmers May Help in the Maritimes.

One of the surest ways to have a thin, spotty, weedy, unproductive stand of wheat is to use poor or weak seed—especially if treated with formalin—in fields infested by wireworms. Since this pest is rather generally prevalent throughout the prairie sections and much of the park belt, especially of Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Peace River area, this is a matter of great importance which is heightened by the general increase of the pest during recent years, and by the present large supply of seed badly damaged by rust, frost or drought.

Even very poor shrunken kernels may start to grow, but germination is slow and the seedlings are weak and spindly. These effects are particularly marked if such seed has been treated with formalin. Under such circumstances, assurance is given by the Entomological Branch, Dominion Department of Agriculture, that each wireworm will destroy several times as much as it would be able to do if healthy, vigorous seed were used. Moreover, the destruction of weak seeds and plants if particularly heavy when soil moisture and temperature is not favorable in the field at the time of seeding. All of these results arise from the fact that wireworm attacks are chiefly serious from the time the seed is placed in the soil until the plants have established strong root systems and have begun to stool heavily. Thus anything—such as the use of poor seed—which lengthens this critical period multiplies the destructive powers of the pest; while, on the other hand, any practice which shortens that period, decreases the rate of damage by wireworms.

No one can afford to use poor seed in fields where wireworms are common.

CONCENTRATED MILK

The total output of concentrated milk products in Canada for the 11 months of 1935 ended November amounted to 99,570,173 pounds, an increase of 10,577,631 pounds, or 12 per cent. over the corresponding period of 1934.

GRADED HOGS

During 1935 the total number of hogs graded in Canada was 2,934,205, a decrease of 79,993 compared with 1934. Of the 1935 hogs, 2,820,383 were graded alive at Stockyards and packing plants, while 113,822 were graded by carcass, that is after they were killed.