

Government of the Province of Saskatchewan

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

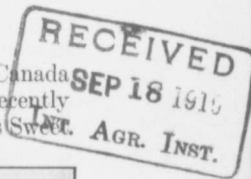
FIELD HUSBANDRY CIRCULAR

SWEET CLOVER

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Sweet Clover has long been familiar to farmers of Eastern Canada and parts of the United States as a troublesome weed but not until recently has it been considered a forage plant of economic importance. As Sweet



Harvesting Sweet Clover on the College Farm.

Clover has become better understood and its many excellent qualities better appreciated, its utilisation both as a hay and pasture for all classes of live stock has rapidly increased. At present it may be found as a cultivated crop in practically every province and state in America.

Its reputation as a weed is no doubt due to its aggressiveness in waste places, its prolific seed production and the fibrous and unpalatable character of the stem as it approaches maturity. Besides the plant possesses a bitter principle which gives the forage a taste that is not relished at first by stock. This becomes more pronounced as the blossoms make their appearance. The stock nevertheless readily become accustomed to the taste if a little judicious care is exercised in getting them started on the new forage. It is beyond question that Sweet Clover is relished by all kinds of stock both as pasture and hay if cut at the proper time. It has also proven an excellent soiling crop and in several cases has been successfully ensiled.