

you finally purchase seed grain, obtain samples of it and send it to the Laboratory for report.

**Object of Seed Testing.**—The object of testing seeds for farmers and seed merchants is to provide for their own information a summary report giving data in the simplest possible form, showing the qualities of the seeds in respect to (a) purity (the presence of useless and noxious weeds), and (b) the percentage of germinable seeds. The inherited productiveness or quality of the plants or crop which may be produced from seeds cannot be determined in a Seed Laboratory.

**Where to Send Seeds for Testing.**—All kinds of field and garden crop seeds will be tested for purity and vitality, free of charge, to farmers. All samples of seeds for test from the Province of Alberta should be addressed to the "Dominion Department of Agriculture, Seed Laboratory, Calgary." Packages addressed to the Seed Laboratory at Calgary will not be accepted from the post office unless the postage on the samples has been prepaid.

**To Secure Representative Samples for Test.**—In order to insure that the sample sent for analysis accurately represents the bulk from which it is taken, the seed should be well mixed and small quantities taken from different parts to make the sample sent for analysis. If it be impracticable thus to mix the seed, small quantities may be drawn by means of seed trays from the top, middle and bottom of each bag when there are not more than six bags; from the top, middle and bottom of every second bag when there are seven to twelve bags; and from the top, middle and bottom of every fourth bag when there are more than twelve bags. The small quantities thus drawn may then be well mixed to make the sample for analysis.

**Size of Sample for Ordinary Purity Test.**—The size of sample sent for purity test should not be less than: One ounce of grass seeds of all kinds, or of white and alsike clovers; two ounces of red clover, alfalfa, millet or other seeds of like size; one-half pound of cereal grains or other large seeds.

**Size of Samples for Germination Test Only.**—For germination test only, samples of smaller size will suffice, but in any case these should be not less than approximately 2,000 seeds of grasses and clovers; 1,000 seeds of cereal grains.

If you have not the time to obtain a Government report, you can make a fairly efficient test yourself by counting out 100 grains, placing them between wet flannel on a dinner plate and covering them with another one. This should be kept moist and in a room where the temperature will be about 60 degrees Fahr. This is about the temperature of an ordinary cool living room. At the end of five days count and remove the grains that have sprouted, noting result, and repeat this at the tenth day. You will thus have a fairly accurate indication of the percentage of good seed in your sample.

Grain suitable for seed should test 90 per cent., and when seed of less quality is used a greater quantity must be sown per acre. Grain cut on the green side, as is frequently done to utilize the straw, is generally worthless for seed.

**Clean Seed.**—The "Noxious Weed Act" of the Province provides heavy fines for any person selling seed grain containing seeds of noxious weeds. Sow only clean seed and re-clean the cleanest before sowing. You cannot afford to grow weeds on your land, you need it all for the production of