

The bulk of the Timothy seed retailed in British Columbia had been obtained from Ontario seed houses. The samples were on the whole rather inferior to those obtained from any of the other provinces.

Sample No. 1, which was practically free from weed seeds, had been grown by a farmer in the vicinity of Vernon, while samples Nos. 14 and 15 which had been imported, contained an alarming number of some of the most dangerous weed seeds, among which were White Cockle and Perennial Sow Thistle.

ALSIKE.

Alsike (*Trifolium hybridum*) is a hybrid clover produced by crossing a variety of the Red with White Clover. It is a perennial on rich moist land, but when grown in a dry climate, or on elevated and poor soils it usually dies out in from two to four years.

The seed is well known in the markets. It is extensively grown in the province of Ontario, and large quantities are annually exported to Europe and the United States.

Well ripened seed that is taken from moist clay land, has a bright green colour and characteristic lustre that is usually wanting in seed grown on light upland soils. Immatured seed from soils that are well suited to Alsike usually lacks in lustre, but seldom contains a large proportion of light coloured seeds. When sowing Alsike for the production of seed, highly coloured seed of the best quality should be used.

Fertilization of Seed.—Alsike is taken from the first and practically the only crop of the season. Fertilization is accomplished chiefly by insects, and it has been found desirable where Alsike seed is grown in quantity, to provide bees for this purpose. It is claimed by growers of Alsike seed that 100 colonies of common honey bees will fully repay for the attention they require in a 50 acre field of Alsike grown for seed.

Cleaning in the Field.—Alsike is one of the most impure seeds in the market. Twenty-five species of weed seeds were found in the samples examined. The seeds of many of the worst weeds ripen with Alsike, and on account of their similarity in size and weight, cannot be separated from the threshed seed. The practice of carefully going through the crop before the seed is ripe and pulling and removing all noxious weeds, is the only way to ensure good clean seed. Such plants as Dock, Lamb's-quarters, Pigweed, Cockle, False Flax, Shepherd's purse and Peppergrass are not difficult to detect in a crop of Alsike, and the cost for labour to pull and remove them is more than repaid by the increased value of the seed.

Harvesting and Threshing.—The method of harvesting Alsike seed that is followed in general practice is to cut the crop with a common mowing machine, to the cutter bar of which is attached a drag table, on which the Alsike is allowed to gather into bunches before being forked to the side. The seed is threshed by a clover mill or 'huller'—a machine made specially for threshing the various kinds of clover.

Amount of Seed to Sow.—Although Alsike seed usually sells at a much higher price than Red Clover, the cost per acre of seeding to Alsike is less. A good quality of Alsike contains about 700,000 seeds per pound, or about double the number contained in a pound of Red Clover. It is usually sown in the spring mixed with grass and Red Clover seed. Seven or eight pounds per acre is considered a liberal amount when sown alone. From three to five pounds per acre is frequently used in mixtures sown for hay.

Practically all the Alsike seed sold in Canada is grown in Ontario and passes through the larger seed houses to local dealers, in consequence, the nature of the impurities in the seed offered in the different provinces is very much the same. A great deal of the Alsike sold in the markets contains large quantities of other clover and grass seeds; many of them as much as 20 per cent by weight. The prices charged for