WEEDS POISONOUS TO LIVESTOCK

plants begin to ions. They are cing the south. mature in June

mas.—The wild very commonly r, three points est of the wild which is absent on are pink, or creenish-yellow. point at the tip s the flowers of the flowernot poisonous

The Swamp Camas (Zygadenus elegans Pursh.) resembles the death camas in general appearance, but is a much coarser plant, owing to the fact that it is usually found in moister locations. The leaves of the swamp camas are wider and longer than those of the death camas. The flower-stem is higher, and the flowers are larger and farther apart on the flower-stem. The swamp camas has the same poisonous principle as the death camas, but being coarser is very seldom eaten by stock.

Parts of the Death Camas that are Poisonous.—All parts of the plant contain the poisonous principle. The bulbs especially are very poisonous. When the soil is wet, there is a greater likelihood of stock pulling up the bulbs.

How the Death Camas Spreads.—The death camas spreads over new areas by means of its seeds. The seeds germinate in spring, and during the growing season produce grass-like plants with small bulbs. The next spring each bulb sends up leaves and a flower-stem.

Animals Which are Subject to Poisoning by Death Camas. —All classes of stock that eat this plant are said to be injuriously affected by it, but apparently in this Province sheep alone are poisoned by it.

Symptoms.—Probably the first symptom of poisoning will be stiffness in the legs and difficulty in walking. There will be also a disposition on the part of the sheep to straggle from the rest of the flock. Frothing at the nose and mouth, rapid breathing, increased flow of saliva, regurgitation through the nose and mouth, sudden jerking of the head and intermittent spasms follow in rapid succession. Finally muscular paralysis takes place, the animal is down and unable to rise and a profound insensibility sets in from which the victim never recovers.

Treatment.—There is a great difference of opinion regarding the treatment for this form of plant-poisoning. Many claim that medicinal remedies are of little avail. In several instances many cases recovered from the administration of permanganate of potash and aluminum sulphate. A teaspoonful of each dissolved in about a pint of water is sufficient for from 10 to 12 sheep. It is claimed by many that bleeding in the extremities, that is, at the mouth and tail, is effective in the early stages of the poisoning.

The supplying of plenty of salt to sheep cannot be recommended too highly. If deprived of salt, sheep develop an abnormal or depraved appetite which eventually results in their acquiring the habit of eating certain plants which otherwise they might-not touch at all.