

FIG. 2.

## CHESS, CHEAT OR WHEAT THIEF.

*Bromus secalinus* (L).

A weed naturalized from Europe. It is a winter annual, with fibrous roots and rough coarse leaves. It has large spikelets, dark green in color, of characteristic shape, and grows from three to four feet high.

Many look upon Chess as degenerated wheat, because it appears among fall wheat that has been winter-killed. This idea is erroneous and without foundation. The fact is that Chess will mature seed under adverse conditions, even though the plant be only a few inches high. The seed possesses great vitality, and is often found in wheat and rye.

Chess is most commonly found among wheat and rye.

The flour made from it is dark-colored and has narcotic principles. Care in the selection of seed grain and careful cultivation, tending to prevent the maturing of the seeds, are the chief remedies. The planting of a crop that can be harvested before the Chess matures is a good plan in badly infested localities. An average plant produces about 1,000 seeds.

Time of flowering, June. Time of seeding, July.

"Chess is a typical plant belonging to the genus *Bromus*. Wheat belongs to the genus *Triticum*. Chess will produce Chess and only Chess, and a seed of wheat cannot be sown to produce Chess, and Chess cannot produce wheat under the most favorable conditions of growth.

"In instances where parts of a plant, apparently a combination of Chess and wheat were so united as to seem but one plant, close examination proved them to be parts of separate plants, and that the apparent union was not real."

*Eradication*.—Avoid fall sown crops, and follow as far as practicable the same method as is recommended for Mustard. In this case, however, the meadow will require special attention, and any weeds that appear must be removed. If many weeds appear in the meadow, it will be better to break it up and follow the rotation suggested under Fox-tail.