

INTRODUCTION

It is now quite generally granted that the control and destruction of weeds is one of the most important problems confronting the Western farmer. The fertility of the Western soil ensures a good crop of weeds, and if for any reason they get ahead of the farm crop, loss is bound to result.

This loss is acknowledged in a general way, but since there is no easy and accurate way of computing it in dollars and cents for a particular crop, the matter is largely overlooked and a short crop accepted with the same resignation as if a hail-storm had been the cause.

The loss from smut was accepted, at one time, in the same way. Thanks to the onward march of progressive agriculture, the farmer who does not treat his grain for smut is almost unknown, and treatment is effective nine times out of ten.

Weeds cause more loss than smut ever did, and the seed must be as thoroughly "treated" for weeds as for smut. "Clean seed" is the watchword, but sowing clean seed in a dirty field sends labor largely lost. The soil, too, must be treated as thoroughly. In the third place, the crop must be treated, when such is possible, either by harrowing when weeds and grain are young, or by hand-pulling later when a new species makes its first appearance. An hour of hand-pulling at the right time will save hundreds in horse-power later.

The cleaning of the seed, the soil and the crop represent the viewpoint from which the writers have prepared this little bulletin in the hope that it may be a help, not only to those who are newcomers to the West, but also to those who have been waging war on the weeds for years with success, and who wish to continue the fight in the most economic way.

If your farm is over-run with weeds, in the first place don't get discouraged and do nothing, and in the next place don't attempt to clean them all out at once. Keep the general control as good as circumstances will permit, and clean up only as much as can be done thoroughly and promptly. Better summer-fallow fifty acres well, from a weed standpoint, than to treat on-