

A small magnifying glass is very useful in identifying seeds. What is known as the Coddington lens (fig. A.), costing \$1.50, is the best glass for such work; but the small eye-glass used by watch-makers (fig. B) will serve the purpose fairly well. Even the cheap linen tester (fig. C) can be used with advantage. Small sets of weed seeds can be purchased from the College,—a set of 35 in small bottles for 75c.

CLASSIFICATION OF WEEDS.

Weeds may be classified according to the length of time they live, as follows:

Annuals, or weeds which germinate, bloom, fruit, and die in one year or season. Corn Cockle is an example.

Winter Annuals, which germinate late in summer or autumn, pass the winter as seedlings or immature plants, and complete the cycle of their existence by blooming, fruiting, and dying during the following summer. Such are Chess and Shepherd's Purse.

Biennials, which produce leaves and roots the first year, and flowers and seed the second year, after which they die. The Wild Carrot and Evening Primrose are familiar examples.

Perennials, which last from year to year, blooming and seeding annually. These are divided into two classes:

(1) Those with underground creeping stems, such as the Canada Thistle.

(2) Those with roots which do not spread underground, such as Chicory and Plantain.

It is important to know the class to which a weed belongs, as the method of eradicating an annual is often very different from that required to destroy a perennial.

ERADICATION OF WEEDS.

The most important points under this head are:

First, a determination to get rid of weeds and to keep the land clean.

Second, the method or methods of tillage and cropping.

As regards the latter point, the writer feels that he cannot do better than submit the method outlined by our late Farm Superintendent, Wm. Rennie, whose experience of over thirty years warrants him in speaking with some confidence on the subject. Mr. Rennie's method not only cleans the land but increases its fertility, and those who wish fuller information should consult the College reports for 1895, 1896, and 1897.

For various reasons, very few farms in the older sections of the Province of Ontario are free from weeds, and the question how to clean our lands without incurring too much expense is one of the most important which can engage the attention of Canadian farmers.