

RESULTS OBTAINED IN 1899

FROM TRIAL PLOTS OF

GRAIN, FODDER CORN, FIELD ROOTS AND POTATOES

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In this bulletin particulars are given of the results obtained from the uniform trial plots of grain, fodder corn, field roots and potatoes at each of the Dominion Experimental Farms during the year 1899, also the average results had during a series of years. While the crops grown on these plots during the season of 1898 were well above the average those of 1899 have been still more satisfactory. In grain the increase has been most marked. In oats the average yield of all the varieties tested at all the experimental farms has exceeded that of the previous year by 11 bushels 1 lb. per acre, two rowed barley by 7 bush. 17 lbs., six-rowed barley by 3 bush. 47 lbs. and spring wheat by 3 bush. 50 lbs. per acre. The excellent average crops of turnips, mangels and carrots had in 1898 were well maintained in 1899, there was an increase in the yield of potatoes at Ottawa and Nappan, but a decrease at Brandon, Indian Head and Agassiz. The season throughout the Dominion was less favourable for Indian corn and in this crop there was a falling off in yield.

In arranging these experiments the plan carried out during the past four years has been continued. The same varieties have been sown at each of the Experimental Farms, the land chosen for the plots has been as nearly uniform in character as could be had and was brought into a good condition of tilth. The seed has been sown early and has been well cleaned and screened before sowing so as to separate the smaller kernels, leaving only the plump and well-matured grain for seed. As far as practicable all the varieties of the same cereal have been sown on the same day or at most within two or three days so as to give to all an even start. Many new varieties of cereals which have been produced on the experimental farms by cross-fertilizing during the past ten years are included in these tests, a list of the names of these will be found in each case in the paragraph preceding the table of returns.

In presenting the information gained by the experience of 1899 the weight of crop obtained in each case is given and the varieties are placed in the order of their productiveness at the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa. The number of days required for each sort from sowing to ripening is also added, and thus their relative earliness is shown.