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SIX HUMAN LIVES is the toll collected by the storms of Western Canada this winter, some of whom perished in their own yard—blinded by the snow—unable to see their own homes. WHO IS GOING TO BE CAUGHT NEXT? Not me, Mary. I am going to order one of those DYSTHE'S FACE PROTECTORS this very minute and be prepared for the severe spring storms, whether it is a sand storm or a blizzard. Then I can look into them all as through a window. They cost only \$1.00 prepaid. I will write for the free book also, giving full particulars as to the makeup and service they give.

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## Farm Problems

Any reader of The Guide who wishes an answer to any problem on the 1-3 can have them answered in this column. These questions are valuable to all farmers, and should send them to a more profitable return for their labors. All questions are answered without charge. Answers by the Correspondence School of Scientific Farming, Winnipeg.

### KILLING WILD OATS

Subscriber, Medora, Man.—Will you kindly give me advice through the valuable columns of your Guide on the following:—I have a farm that is just full of wild oats, they were so bad last summer as to almost completely choke out my crop of wheat. It seems evident I cannot grow wheat again until something has been done to rid them. I was thinking of growing flax. Do you think it would be more profitable than barley and still serve the same purpose towards killing of wild oats? 2. If I seed flax what is about the best time to sow to avoid being caught by frost before harvest? 3. How much seed per acre would it require? 4. As I have nothing plowed this fall and all the wild oats from last crop are shelled out, what method would you recommend to prepare the land for flax seed?

Answer.—1. We would not advise the use of flax in this instance. Grass will be much better, either timothy, brome or western rye. All these grasses are cut early before the wild oats ripen and consequently the weeds are not allowed to go to seed. This also holds good for second cutting or pasture. Wild oats, as you know, are annuals and consequently can be checked in this way. 2. If you are going to use flax we would advise you to sow between May 15 and 25, and not later, if you wish to insure good results. 3. This is a debatable point at the present time and many have obtained good results by using different amounts. Half a bushel to the acre or twenty-eight pounds is recognized as the standard, but anywhere from twenty-eight to forty pounds to the acre can be sown with success, the amount depending upon the quality of the seed. A lot of the seed will not germinate unless the seed as well as the land is in pretty good condition and consequently you have to take this into consideration. At the Indian Head Experimental Station good results have been obtained with forty pounds to the acre.

4. We would advise disking as early as possible in the spring and then plowing later. The grass crop should be sown any time between May 1 and June 15, and if timothy is used sow about eight pounds to the acre, brome, fifteen pounds; or western rye, from twelve to fifteen pounds. When everything is taken into consideration we think it would pay to sow the grass crop alone and to take off two crops of hay or grass and then plow up and return to grain. In advocating this system we have been well aware of the fact that you wished to sow grain as early as possible, but under the present condition of your land we think it would be just as well for you to delay a year or two and completely rid your farm of this weed than to endeavor to secure grain crops, the grade of which will be seriously damaged through this pest.

Another means of extermination is to disc in the fall or spring, to cover any seeds remaining on the surface after harvest and encourage their germination. Plow before the middle of June and seed to beardless barley or oats and cut for green feed before the weeds are ripe. Unlike most weeds the wild oat will germinate at a moderate depth, about four or five inches, but the seeds must be firm. On this account good results have been obtained by sowing in the spring to wheat or oats and grazing with stock when the plants are six or seven inches high. The tramping of the cattle firms the soil which induces the seeds to germinate while the cattle keep the plants eaten down. Care must be taken to run sufficient stock in the field so that no weeds will be allowed to go to seed.

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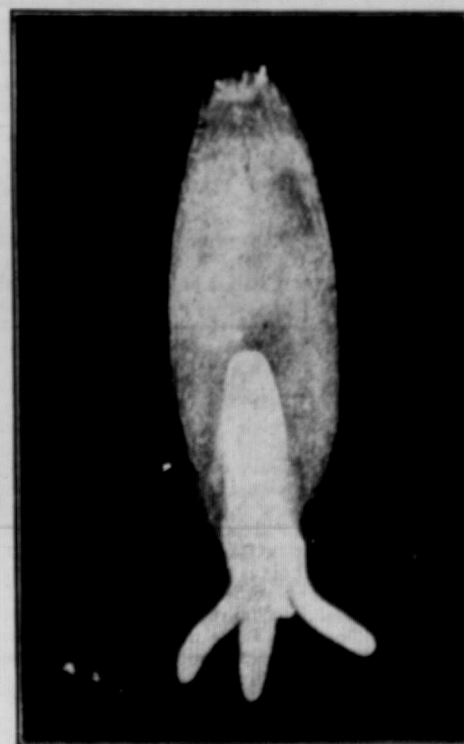
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