

solid is likely to do any harm. Sowing can be carried out earlier on light soils. Heavy land, that is cold and wet in spring, requires longer to dry to the proper condition. In order to lighten somewhat the work of harvesting, it will be sometimes advisable to sow on two different dates, with an interval of a week to ten days between. As the crop will not be all ready for harvesting at the same time, the work of handling it will be better distributed.

### METHOD OF SOWING.

Flax seed is generally sown broadcast, and it will be advisable to sow when there is no wind. If sown by hand, great care will be necessary to have the distribution uniform, as the seed is so slippery. The seed may be sown with a drill in rows 4 inches apart, after which it should be harrowed in a direction across the drilled rows. The seed should be covered to a depth of about half an inch. After the seed has been covered, the surface is usually rolled. If the land contains a considerable amount of clay, it will be advisable not to roll it after seeding, as the surface is apt to form a hard crust after rain. In such case the surface should be rolled before sowing. The young flax plants are less likely to suffer from drought, if the seed-bed is compact. Clover is frequently sown with flax, and makes a considerable growth the first year.

### WEEDS.

If flax is sown, as it should be, on clean land, and the seed sown is free from impurities, very little weeding will be necessary. Any weeding that is attempted should be done by hand, and should be carried out before the crop is 6 inches high. The persons employed should wear rubber-soled shoes, and should proceed in a direction against the wind. This will tend to straighten any plants that are bent down.

Red Root Pigweed (*Amaranthus retroflexus*, L.) and Small Bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*, L.) are difficult to separate from flax when it is being scutched. Flax should not be sown on land that is infested with these weeds.

The seeds of Lady's Thumb (*Polygonum Persicaria*, L.), Pale Persicary (*Polygonum lapathifolium*, L.), and Small Darnel (*Lolium linicolum* A. Br.) are difficult to separate from flaxseed, and these species should be looked for in the crop.

Flax Dodder (*Cuscuta Epilinum* Weihe) lives as a parasite on the flax plant, twining round the stems and deriving its whole nourishment from them. Any small patches of Dodder in the field should be cut and burned.

Wild Mustard (*Brassica arvensis* Ktze.), when growing in cereal crops, can be controlled by spraying with a 20 per cent solution of iron sulphate, or a 2 per cent solution of copper sulphate. It is doubtful, however, whether this remedy can be applied in the case of a flax crop. According to Professor Zavitz, of Guelph, a 20 per cent solution of iron sulphate injured the flax crop and, even with a 15 per cent solution, there was a moderate amount of injury. Professor Bolley states that flax should not be sprayed after it is 4 to 5 inches high. Other experimenters state that they have used a 3 per cent solution of copper sulphate without injuring the flax. Until further experiments have been made, spraying of mustard in a flax crop should be done with caution. If attempted, a knapsack sprayer should be used, and a 15 per cent solution of iron sulphate (15 pounds in 10 gallons of water) should be applied at the rate of 52 gallons per acre.

### DISEASES

The chief diseases of the flax plant are two in number, namely, Flax Wilt and Flax Rust. Flax Wilt (*Fusarium lini* Bolley) attacks the plant in its seedling stage and kills it. The germs of the fungus live in the soil, and the remedies are proper rotation of flax with other crops, and treatment of the seed with formalin before sowing.