

Field Peas as Farm Crop

FIELD peas have been grown on the Experimental Farm at Scott during the past five years. The average yield per acre when grown on summer-fallow has amounted to 29.59 bushels. Wheat has been sown on the pea ground each year and the average yield per acre (29.53 bushels) is almost equal to that obtained when wheat has been sown on summerfallow, whereas the average from the second crop of wheat after summer-fallow has only amounted to 22.73 bushels. In other words an increased yield has been secured of 6.80 bushels per acre by sowing wheat on pea land rather than on land that had previously grown a crop of wheat. Judging from the yield of wheat secured after peas an additional year can be added to a rotation of crops by using peas in the rotation.

How Grown

Peas are usually sown about the same time as wheat with an ordinary grain drill on summerfallow land, at a rate of 2 3/4 bushels per acre. The variety used is a selection of the Arthur, made by the Dominion Cerealists. It is a medium-sized, smooth, yellowish-white pea.

One of the difficulties put forward as a reason why peas are not more commonly grown is that of the difficulty of securing labor for harvesting. One farmer has overcome this difficulty in some degree by harvesting with an ordinary grain binder, when the peas are slightly damp. After he has removed as much of the peas as he can with the binder, he turns in his hogs to harvest the remainder of the crop.

In the Scott district wet weather prevailed during the past harvest and on the station peas were left until late in the season, and then were pulled with an ordinary horse rake, two men following the rake and bunching as fast as they rake could pull them. The peas were left in bunches for a couple of days until dry, and then were threshed with an ordinary threshing mill the concave teeth having been removed. In previous years the mower was used to cut the peas and the peas lifted and bunched out of the way of the mower. This is a more expensive method of handling the crop.

The reason for some light crops that have been harvested is the absence of nitrifying bacteria. Old land that has been manured, or grown potatoes or roots, usually contains a higher percentage of suitable bacteria, than does new land. An experiment conducted this year, on new land in inoculating peas with a culture of the bacteria has resulted in an increased yield of 7.24 bushels per acre,

over a part of the same field that had received no inoculation.

Value of Crop

Fed to milch cows, pea meal has been found to increase the milk flow. Fed to hogs and sheep they are excellent for fattening purposes.

Peas mixed with oats and cut green for hay make an excellent forage crop. The rate of yield on the Station during the past two years has amounted to 3 tons, 1800 pounds per acre.

While the addition of peas has not increased the yield, it has added to the palatability of the fodder. The usual rate of seeding has been one bushel of peas and two of oats per acre.

The importance of sowing peas on clean land cannot be too strongly emphasized, as peas lodge late in the season and this usually takes place in sufficient time for any weeds that are present to develop into strong and healthy specimens, producing a considerable quantity of seeds.



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To Everyone for the NEW YEAR

At the threshold of another New Year we earnestly desire that it may bring to everyone Peace.

May we all in the coming year have peace of mind individually, peace and love in our family lives, peace among neighbors, peace in our communities, peace over the length and breadth of our country, peace throughout our Empire, and peace among the nations of the world. Such peace is everything and everywhere as the blessing of our Heavenly Father will rest upon and cause to endure.

And we heartily wish for everyone, throughout the year 1917, health of body and soundness of mind, success in all the usual and proper work and business of everyday life, and such a measure of material prosperity as will be for the highest good of all.

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ANOTHER IMPORTANT AD- VICE FROM McBEAN BROS.

The last letter we issued in this paper was dated September 28th. Since that date wheat has advanced to \$2.00 and oats to 65c. The last few weeks' prices have declined, but this is only a natural reaction. We are looking for our wheat to sell at above \$2.00 later on. Oats before another crop is harvested we feel will sell at around 85 cents. There is nothing in the situation to warrant lower prices before another crop is harvested, and even then you need not look for very low prices. We figure that our low grade wheat is entirely too low compared with higher grades, but these prices will adjust themselves after the beginning of the New Year. We strongly advise farmers not to sell a bushel of their wheat and oats until the beginning of the year, or until wheat is around \$2.00 and oats around 75 cents to 80 cents.

Flax and barley are fairly high now, but we think both these cereals will go higher. We are Commission Merchants and would like a share of your grain this year. Give us a trial, ship your grain to Fort William or Port Arthur; advise McBean Bros., Winnipeg, Man., so that we can look after the grading. We make big advances on each car of grain. Write us any time for market information.

December

McBEAN BROS.

8th, 1916
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WINNIPEG

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References: Bank of Toronto,
Northern Crown Bank and
Commercial Agencies.