

THE BEST VARIETIES OF GRAIN.

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In order to reap the largest and most profitable crops, it is not only necessary to maintain the fertility and tilth of the soil, by the use of a judicious rotation and the addition of sufficient manure or fertilizers, but care must be taken to sow thoroughly clean seed derived from varieties best adapted to the soil and climatic conditions of each farm. The present pamphlet deals with the choice of varieties and presents conclusions drawn from the tests which have been conducted on the various Dominion Experimental Farms and Stations for many years.

As a rule it is not advisable for farmers to experiment with new sorts which are recommended by the vendors only; but those grain growers who have a special liking for experimental work will find the testing of new kinds a very interesting, though expensive, occupation. For most people, it is better to leave to government institutions all preliminary experiments, and not to grow on their own farms any varieties that have not already been shown to be good. There will always be plenty of scope, among recommended sorts, for very interesting comparative trials, which may be made with little or no loss of either time or money.

It is not the policy of the Dominion Experimental Farms to advise the cultivation of new varieties of grain until they have been carefully tested in, at least, some parts of Canada, though, of course, it is impossible to withhold new sorts from the public long enough to try them in all sections of our great country. Furthermore, new varieties, whether originated at Ottawa or elsewhere, are not recommended unless they have shown some point of superiority over the older and better known sorts. Novelty ought to be recognized as a disadvantage unless accompanied by some definite and significant gain.

In order that grain growers may be able to make an intelligent choice among the varieties recommended, brief descriptions of them are here given. Other very good sorts, almost or quite equal in value to some of those which are recommended, could have been added to this list, but it is manifestly undesirable to mention the names of an unnecessarily large number of varieties.

It should be explained that all those varieties to which Ottawa numbers are attached are new cross-bred sorts or selections produced by the Dominion Cerealist at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

DESCRIPTIONS OF LEADING VARIETIES.

Winter Wheat.

Dawson's Golden Chaff.—Very productive, beardless, straw stiff, grains "white" and inclined to be soft, excellent for pastry, but not very desirable for bread-making. Hardy where there is a reasonable snow-fall.

Egyptian Amber.—Almost equal to Dawson's Golden Chaff in field characters and superior for bread-making. Bearded, grains red.

Turkey Red.—In commerce, often called Kansas Red or Alberta Red; practically identical with Kharkov (the latter is, however, supposed to be more productive). Grains red and usually rather hard. Heads bearded, straw moderately stiff. The best winter wheat for bread-making purposes. This variety is adapted to rather dry districts and does not usually do so well where the snow-fall is heavy.

Spring Wheat.

Red Fife Group—Late Ripening Varieties.

Red Fife.—Formerly the standard variety of Canada. Beardless, straw rather long and fairly stiff, kernels red and usually hard. Gives a good yield under a variety