

produced in a climate which is similar to that under which the crop is to be grown. From extensive enquiries made from farmers who have grown alfalfa seed in Ontario for at least five years, some very valuable information has been obtained. We learned that alfalfa seed had been produced with success in at least thirteen counties in Ontario. In all cases where seed was produced it was taken from the second crop, the first crop of the season being converted into hay. The yield of alfalfa seed per acre varied considerably, the highest being seven bushels, and the average a little over two bushels per acre. The farmers determined the time for cutting the crop for seed production by the color of the pods, most of them stating that the crop should be cut when the pods were brown, although some of them left the crop until the pods were almost black. The majority of the farmers cut their seed with a mowing machine, and a number mentioned having a table attachment to the machine. About twenty per cent. used the reaper, and about twelve per cent. used the self-binder. As a rule the crop was cured in the windrow by those who used the mowing machine, and in the bunches by those who used the reaper, or the mowing machine with the table attachment. Those who used the self binder cured the crop in shocks. The threshing was done mostly with a clover machine, and took place almost any time after the crop was harvested until midwinter. When the threshing is done in the autumn it is preferable to have dry weather, and when in the winter to have cold weather in order to get the best results. Nearly all farmers have reported obtaining good quality of seed in most years. The seed has been sold chiefly to neighboring farmers and to local dealers. The greatest difficulties reported in alfalfa seed production in Ontario have been from the injuries caused by grasshoppers, wet weather, blighted plants, early frosts, and a few mentioned troubles from thick seeding. The ideal condition appears to be a comparatively moist season for the production of the hay crop, and a rather dry season after the hay has been removed from the land. Nearly all the farmers stated that they considered seed production did not injure the plants. Nearly all were enthusiastic alfalfa growers from the standpoint of both hay and seed production. Unfortunately the last two or three years in Ontario have been more unfavorable for seed production than almost any of the fifteen years previous. Many of the farmers in the Niagara Peninsula have either used their own seed or have bought the seed from their neighbors. In this way the same strain has been used for a longer period of time, and many of the tender plants have become killed out. Although this system has been conducive to the production of a hardy strain of alfalfa it has at the same time permitted the growth of a considerable number of weeds along with the alfalfa. In the last few years a number of the best farmers have been endeavoring to produce the hardy alfalfa as free from weeds as possible. I believe that this section of the country will in time become a noted district for the production of a large quantity of hardy alfalfa seed to the advantage, not only of the farmers who produce the seed, but also to the advantage of many other farmers throughout Canada who are anxious to buy hardy alfalfa seed for use on their own farms. There is a great opportunity for seed producing centres where the hardy alfalfa can be grown so successfully for the production of both hay and seed.

Alfalfa is a deep-rooted leguminous plant, perennial in its habit of growth, and under favorable conditions will live and produce crops for many years. Formerly, it was called Lucerne in the eastern part of America, but the word "Alfalfa" is now used almost universally. We have had under experiment at the Ontario