

The two chief difficulties in growing flax for seed in Saskatchewan are the spread of weeds and the danger of infection from flax wilt. On account of the difficulty of removing small weed seeds from threshed flax the seed is often very impure. Flax sickness can only be cured or controlled by (1) using sound plump seed from uninfected fields if possible; (2) treating the seed with formalin; and (3) planting flax on the same field not oftener than once in five or six years.

#### FIELD PEAS.

The *Field Pea* is but little grown in Saskatchewan because of (1) danger of frost in the fall; (2) low yields in the drier areas; and (3) the difficulty in harvesting; and (4) relatively high cost of seed. The field pea is, however, our most suitable annual legume, and yields of from eighteen to forty bushels per acre have been reported from various parts of the province. The varieties that are considered best for general use are "*Arthur*," "*Golden Vine*," "*Solo*," "*Early White*" and "*Carleton*."

"*Arthur*" is a heavy yielding and medium early variety. "*Golden Vine*" is a popular small seeded medium early variety. "*Solo*" is a heavy yielding rather late sort. "*Early White*" is a small seeded, early, fairly productive variety that is recommended for Saskatchewan conditions. "*Carleton*" is a high yielding, medium early pea, with medium sized seeds covered with brownish spots. It is a promising variety.

#### CLASSES AND VARIETIES OF FORAGE CROPS.

Under semi-arid conditions long-lived or perennial crops do not yield as well as the shorter-lived annuals and biennials. This is explained by the fact that much more frequent opportunity to store moisture and develop plant food is given in the case of annuals and biennials than with a crop which lives several years. At the same time perennial crops cost less to produce, since there is no charge for soil preparation, seed or seeding after the first year.

It is our opinion that in the drier areas greater reliance must be placed on the short-lived crops than on the long-lived ones. Yet the latter are essential for such permanent or semi-permanent pastures as it may be found advisable to use. We have insufficient data to determine which is the more profitable under all conditions. It would seem, however, that we should plan, in the drier parts at least, to get the bulk of our hay from annual crops and depend upon the perennials for some early spring pasturage, some hay, and a reserve pasture for horses or other stock when the annual crops may not be ready for pasturing. Where weeds are prevalent or where soil drifting is common a larger proportion of perennials is desirable. The more humid the district the more successful perennials will be, the drier the area the more annuals must be depended upon. The proportion of each should be determined by the climatic conditions, the system of farming followed, and the needs of the soil.