

seeds remain on the surface so as to cause them to germinate. The harrow should again be used when the young plants are just above the ground, the hotter the day this is done the better. Plants with fully-formed pods should never be plowed in, as the seeds will retain their vitality in the soil for a considerable time. They should, therefore, be mowed closely, and the weeds collected and burnt as soon as they are dry enough.

The seeds, when wet, are covered with a jelly-like coating, by means of which they adhere to any object with which they come in contact, and are thus distributed widely and easily, by sticking to the feet of animals and to farm implements.

Vitality of buried seeds, 8 years.

**FLEA-BANE OR HORSE WEED. FIRE WEED (*Erigeron Canadensis*).** An annual and winter-annual with much branched hairy stems from one to five feet high. Its flowers are in numerous, small, whitish heads, and its seeds are spread by the wind as they are small and light, with a pappus of short tufted hairs.

This weed is common in meadows and specially in uncultivated fields. As the stem is always strong and the root not large, hand pulling is a satisfactory way of dealing with it.

Good cultivation and the frequent breaking up of the land will easily keep it under control.

It flowers from June to September and seeds from July to November. An average plant produces 120,000 seeds.

\***WHITE COCKLE (*Lychnis alba*).** Though this weed is not yet common in many parts of Ontario, it deserves attention on account of its dangerous character. It is a biennial and cannot readily be distinguished from the Night-flowering Catchfly. It has somewhat hairy, branching stems from one to three feet high. Like the Catchfly, it has a sticky secretion which attracts many insects.

The flowers are in loose panicles, white or pink in color and as a rule they open at night and remain so until the morning of the following day.

It flowers from June to September and seeds from July to October, an average plant producing 10,000 seeds. The seeds closely resemble Night-flowering Catchfly and Bladder Campion.

It has a fleshy branching root which is capable of producing new plants even under very unfavorable conditions. It grows most readily among hay and many rootstocks will produce two growths of plants, capable of ripening seed the same season. It is thus necessary to cut those plants at least twice a year to prevent seeding. No satisfactory method of eradication has yet been found, but a heavy seeding of rape followed possibly by a hoed crop the following season will do much towards exterminating this pest.

A sharp lookout for the seed when purchasing seed grain should be exercised to prevent its introduction.

\***SWEET CLOVER (*Melilotus alba*).** Though this can hardly be classed as a noxious weed, yet it may be classed as a weed inasmuch as it grows where it is not wanted. It is rarely troublesome on cultivated grounds and is a soil former. It is a valuable plant in this respect, as it belongs to the clover family. But admitting its usefulness, the sweet clover is a coarse homely plant, and where permitted to grow and throw up its tall flower stalks unmolested, it is certainly offensive to the eye and neatness would demand its destruction.

When permitted to seed, the sweet clover does not live more than two years. Mowing off the flower stalks would prevent seeding, but as with common clovers it would tend to prolong the life of the root. The root, however, cannot endure cultivation, and a thorough plowing of the ground followed by a hoed crop will suffice to eradicate it.

\***PRICKLY LETTUCE (*Lactuca Scariola*).** Is closely related to the common garden lettuce, which it resembles in the seed-bearing stage. It is an

\* Specified in Seed Control Act.