

## SCORE CARD FOR SEED FLAX.

*Purity.**Possible score.*

1. Freedom from weed seeds.....	20
2. Freedom from other kinds of grain and useless impurities.....	10

*Quality of Grain.*

1. Freedom from evidence of flax wilt and other diseases....	20
2. Grain sound, well ripened, free from frosted or otherwise damaged grains .....	15
3. Containing a high percentage of oil as indicated by glistening surface and slippery feeling when grasped by the hand.....	12
4. Colour, glossy dark brown, uniformly bright, not weathered .....	5
5. Grain uniformly plump, relatively large. The measured bushel well above standard weight.....	18
Weight per bushel                      pounds.	

Total.....	100
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(Standard weight per bushel, 56 pounds.)

It will be noted that the two most important characteristics of good seed flax are its freedom from weed seeds and from evidences of flax wilt.

*Prevalence of Weed Seeds in Seed Flax.*

It is important that any grain intended for seed shall be free from weed seeds, but it is doubly important in the case of flaxseed. With the possible exception of wild oats the seeds of our worst noxious weeds can be almost entirely removed from wheat, oats or barley provided sufficient time is spent on and care taken with the work of separation. In the case of flax, on the contrary, wild oats is almost the only noxious weed seed that can readily be separated from the grain. Certainly the seeds of half a dozen of our most noxious weeds—including stinkweed and several of the mustards—can be separated from flaxseed only with the greatest difficulty, if at all, by the farmer's fanning mill. When it is remembered, too, that most of the seed flax is sown upon virgin land, the importance of securing and using only the cleanest seed is further emphasised. Indeed, it may well be questioned whether, in view of the above facts, freedom from weed seeds should not receive an even larger allotment of points on the score card than it already has. If a supply of seed flax that is free from the seeds of noxious weeds cannot be secured, it is far better to let the new land lie fallow throughout the summer in which it is broken, than to pollute that land at the very outset of its usefulness with trash that will cause trouble and loss and worry as long as the field is under cultivation. Every farmer has some weeds and most have some noxious weeds; but no man should, on that account, wilfully add to the number by deliberately sowing seed that contains them. There are thieves in the world and always have been, but civilised nations endeavour to reduce the number and check their operation rather than deliberately add to their number, because they cannot be entirely eliminated and because it would cost less to abandon the attempt.