

The winds, the waters, the birds, the wild animals and the plants themselves are nature's great agents of plant distribution. The unfortunate farmer on low lying river lands may every year find his fields strewn by the spring freshets, with myriads of noxious weed seeds gathered from the lands of the careless farmer above him. The winds carry the pappus winged seed from the fields of the slothful to those of his painstaking neighbor. The birds and the animals bring them sticking to their feet or in their hairy coats as they have occasion to cross his fields. The running roots and rootstocks, the creeping stems and tips, reach under and through, while the seed throwing apparatus with which many weeds are provided, throws their seeds over the fence which divides the weed free land from that which is thus infested, spreading and propagating their kind in new localities. To prevent this natural dissemination of weeds the only practical course, and beyond all doubt the only certain course, is to prevent their seeding and to destroy as far as possible every sign of green which may be shown by any perennial, and this introduces the second part of that last question, how are we to accomplish their destruction.

The possibility of weed eradication has long been considered by many good agricultural authorities a feasible scheme. Though such men are rightly considered enthusiasts, for the reason that the number of species is not fixed but is constantly being augmented by the development and introduction of new varieties, yet I do believe that any farmer may have such absolute control over the weeds on his own farm that they will no longer prove a menace to his crops. The increasing demand for farm produce resulting in more intensive systems of farming is requiring the destruction of weeds. The rapid increase in numbers and a corresponding decrease in price of the various cultivators and weeding machines has made this destruction comparatively cheap and easy. Then the smothering of weeds in dense crops of grain and hay is another great means which the farmers should control, and direct toward the suppression of his plant foes. A combination of these two methods in a well planned rotation is the great step towards weed destruction.

The special object of any rotation decides its arrangement. To better facilitate the destruction of these our plant foes, this order will include a frequent introduction of those crops which