

# Summer-Fallow Competitions in Manitoba

## SUMMER-FALLOWING

Summer fallowing is the cultivation throughout the summer of idle land which, the previous year, produced a crop of grain, corn or roots.

### OBJECTS

1. To kill the weeds.
2. To store up moisture.
3. To make available plant food.
4. To utilize the slack time during the summer to prepare for next season's crop.

### METHODS OF SUMMER-FALLOWING

The approved methods of preparing land for crop by summer-fallowing vary greatly, depending upon the kind of weeds and character of the soil and kind of climate. It has, therefore, been deemed advisable, for the purpose of planning summer-fallow methods, to divide the Province into three districts where the *weeds, soil and climate* differ.

## Eastern District

The Eastern District shall include what is generally known as the Red River Valley, i.e., all land east of Darlingford, Deerwood, Leary, Rathwell, Bagot and Lake Manitoba.

### SOIL AND CLIMATIC CONDITIONS.

The prevailing weeds in this district are perennials, of which the perennial Sow Thistle and Canada Thistle are most abundant. The soil is a stiff, clay loam. The fall frost is seldom early enough to do any damage and the rainfall is sufficient to produce profitable crops without summer-fallowing. Therefore, for the Eastern District the method of summer-fallowing must be outlined largely for the purpose of weed control. The method outlined must be a suitable one for stiff, clay soils.

### METHOD RECOMMENDED FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT

The work on all summer-fallow in this district must be both prompt and thorough if the eradication of the weeds is to be a success. It is, therefore, advisable to attempt to summer-fallow only such an acreage as can be done well. For this district the following method will prove most suitable:—

**FALL CULTIVATION.**—Skim plow the stubble the fall previous two or three inches deep. This covers the weed seeds, and if it is done early enough may start some of them to germinate in the fall. If these are annuals, they will be killed by the winter frosts.