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WEEDS OF ONTARIO.

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For some time past the writer has been collecting information regarding the weeds of Ontario with special reference to their distribution in the province. Having received replies from over one thousand persons to whom circulars were sent through the medium of the Bureau of Industries asking for the names of the ten worst weeds in the district he is able to give in this bulletin a summary of the information received.

Weeds of late years have received considerable attention not only from students of botany but also from practical agriculturists, a fact which indicates that farmers are advancing and that they are departing from careless methods of cultivation, and adopting systems in which cleanliness of the field forms an important factor. In fact they are now convinced that weeds must be classed with such enemies as parasitic plants and insects.

Insects, mildews, blights, etc., were early condemned as sources of loss, but farmers have been slow to consider that much loss could be sustained by growing weeds. However, they see now that weeds involve extra labor, smother useful plants, take food from the soil, add impurities to the grain, rob the soil of moisture, afford shelter and food to injurious insects, and give fields an unsightly appearance.

In Bulletin LXXXV the principles which underlie a successful warfare against weeds were thoroughly discussed and reference was made to the best methods for destroying the following eleven varieties: Canada Thistle, Sow Thistle, Wild Flax, Pigeonweed, Ragweed, Couch Grass, Ox-eye Daisy, Burdock, Blueweed, Mustard and Wild Oat. In this bulletin we give a description of four additional weeds which, though not now so common, may soon become pests.

In examining the various lists we find reference made to 92 species, embracing 76 genera and 28 orders. Only a few observers refer to certain forms, but in order to give some idea of the number of plants considered as weeds, a tabulated statement is given which will be useful for showing in a concise form the weeds of Ontario.