

Control of Noxious Weeds

Weeds

It is impossible to estimate the loss that Western farmers yearly sustain through the noxious weed scourge. Yearly hundreds of acres of standing grain are plowed under by the action of the weeds.

inspections of the Western Provinces, while there is scarcely a farmer who has not had his yield cut down a certain percentage because of the presence of weeds in his fields. Weeds rob the land of plant food and moisture, thus increasing



COMMON OR ANNUAL SOW THISTLE.
This weed is common in this region. It is a native of Europe. The leaves are deeply cut and marked with soft spiny teeth. The flowers are yellow and the seed is small. The leaves are a light green color. The flowers are about one inch in diameter. The seed is about one-eighth of an inch in diameter. The leaves are about one inch long and one-half inch wide. The flowers are about one inch in diameter. The seed is about one-eighth of an inch in diameter.

the effects of drought by taking up water from the soil and wasting it by evaporation. Weeds crowd out more useful plants, being harder and, as a rule, more prolific than the crops. Weeds are a heavy expense to the farmer, as they require more labor for their control. Weeds are a heavy expense to the farmer, as they require more labor for their control. Weeds are a heavy expense to the farmer, as they require more labor for their control.

How Weeds Spread

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The first farmers to break up the virgin prairies of the West were not troubled with weeds to any extent. It is true that weeds spring up but they were seldom of the noxious character. It was easy enough for any farmer, no matter how unscientific, to control these weeds. The majority of the noxious weeds are foreign. There are some native weeds of course, that rank among the worst of a noxious character, but the worst varieties came insignificantly from Europe, and the same is true of the noxious weeds that gained admittance to the West. Weeds of the West in various ways and after their introduction, they have spread in

many sections of the country. There are so many ways that weeds spread after they gain admittance to a section of the country that it is almost impossible to get rid of them.

Many of the first weeds of a noxious character came to the West through importations of impure seed grains, in the pockets of careless individuals, importations of live stock and various other means. The seed of the noxious weeds came through the soil of the crops. The seed of the noxious weeds came through the soil of the crops. The seed of the noxious weeds came through the soil of the crops.

When a new weed appeared in the fields it may be that it may not have been noticed by the farmer, but it only took a couple of seasons for the tainted fields to become polluted and the farmer woke up just a



STINKWEED OR FRENCH WEED.
This weed is common in this region. It is a native of Europe. The leaves are deeply cut and marked with soft spiny teeth. The flowers are yellow and the seed is small. The leaves are a light green color. The flowers are about one inch in diameter. The seed is about one-eighth of an inch in diameter. The leaves are about one inch long and one-half inch wide. The flowers are about one inch in diameter. The seed is about one-eighth of an inch in diameter.

little too late to the fact that he had a terrible enemy of his crops in his fields. Thus the start was made and the farmer has continued to fight the scourge for years. In a few cases he has gained the upper hand but, on the whole, the victory has been won by the weed and the farmer has been forced to turn his knowledge and skill to a means of control of the pest rather than eradication.

Nearly Fields Contaminated

Once a field became polluted it was very natural that adjoining lands should soon receive the contagion and thus the noxious weeds gained territory year by year. In the earlier days weeds spread with much greater rapidity than they do at the present day. This was commonly through the agency of unclean threshing machines, the interchange of bags at threshing time and through stock running the fields at large during the fall, carrying the weeds from farm to farm. There are scores of similar ways that might be cited that have been common since the spreading of weeds began in the West. Weeds are one of the worst of these ways due to the fact that many careless farmers sowed dirty seed. In this respect the farmers are not the chief offenders as many seed companies sold seed that contained noxious weeds. Rigid laws, however, of the present day have eliminated the spreading of weed seeds through dirty seed to almost nil, as heavy fines are imposed on the offending party.

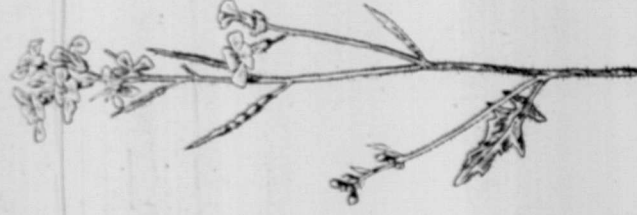
Although the presence of weeds in the fields is due to a great extent to careless methods of the part of the owners farms, it cannot be denied that a field will get polluted even though every precaution is

taken to prevent it. It is a common occurrence for noxious weeds to be carried to farms through the agency of waterways. The writer is familiar with a case in which a farmer along the banks of the Assiniboine had his lands sown to French weed in the spring time when the high waters covered the low lands. The weeds were carried by the water a long distance for French weed was unknown in the district for a while afterwards. The weeds were carried by the water a long distance for French weed was unknown in the district for a while afterwards. The weeds were carried by the water a long distance for French weed was unknown in the district for a while afterwards.

Sometimes Not Farmers' Fault

Thus it is not always the fault of the farmer that his fields become polluted with noxious weeds. Sometimes a great deal to do with the presence of noxious weeds in many farms. Farms lying alongside of public highways, railways and waterways run a great risk of being tainted with noxious weeds.

It may be to be hoped that there are over one hundred different varieties of noxious weeds in the Province of Manitoba. Of course few of these are of a very bad



WILD RADISH.
This plant, recently introduced to Ontario from England, is common in the Province of Manitoba, and is growing in many places. It is a native of Europe. The leaves are deeply cut and marked with soft spiny teeth. The flowers are yellow and the seed is small. The leaves are a light green color. The flowers are about one inch in diameter. The seed is about one-eighth of an inch in diameter. The leaves are about one inch long and one-half inch wide. The flowers are about one inch in diameter. The seed is about one-eighth of an inch in diameter.

Nnoxious weeds include common wild mustard, hare's ear mustard, tumbling sow thistle, Russian thistle, wild oat, French or stink weed, false flax, giant ragweed, dwarf ragweed, blue birt, blue lettuce, prickly lettuce, quack grass and others too numerous to mention. However, a number of the worst varieties will be noticed in these given.

Education.
The legislatures of the various provinces have formulated rigid laws to prevent the spreading of noxious weeds, but it is believed by many of the leading agricultural authorities in the West, at the

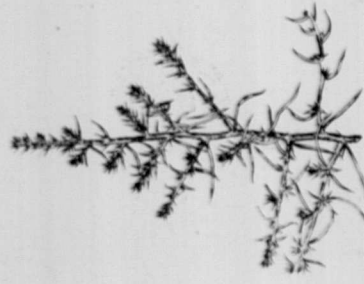
present day, that the control of noxious weeds is not merely a matter of legislation but that it is a question of education. The education of the people in the matter of dealing with noxious weeds is one of the most important of the day. It is a matter of education. The education of the people in the matter of dealing with noxious weeds is one of the most important of the day. It is a matter of education. The education of the people in the matter of dealing with noxious weeds is one of the most important of the day.

There are many noxious weeds in the districts of Manitoba. Weeds that are dangerous and that ought to be wiped out—that could not be identified by the weed inspectors of other parts of the province where the weeds were not known. The wild radish is a weed that is giving a great deal of trouble in certain parts of North Dakota. This weed has already spread to Manitoba and yet, at the weed convention held last year at the Manitoba Agricultural college, out of seventy-two weed inspectors, gathered together from all parts of the province, not one was able to identify the wild radish. The same was true, to a certain extent, of the Russian thistle and the new thistle, two very bad weeds that have already gotten a foothold in Southern Manitoba. Thus it can be seen how important the matter of education is as to the control of noxious weeds. When the weed inspectors themselves are not acquainted with troublesome weeds in various districts it can readily be seen how these weeds can get a strong foothold in a new district before they are recognized as a dangerous weed.

Work at M. A. C.

During the past five years the Manitoba Agricultural college has done much to aid the control of noxious weeds by teaching the students to identify and eradicate them. The college has also sent on a course during the middle of June, at a time when it was thought that most men could get away from the farm to come to the institution and study noxious weeds. It was put on at a time to get hold of men who were sincerely interested in noxious weeds and who were beginning to think of the battle before them. Last year there were seventy-two gentlemen at that convention and this year there were a great many more.

That these men might receive a general knowledge of weeds common to the West, seeds of over one hundred noxious weeds, common to the Province of Manitoba, were collected and the plants were coming on in the pots in the greenhouse when the inspectors arrived. It was found that specimens that were not common to the districts of the province were produced for the



RUSSIAN THISTLE.
This large, rampant weed thrives where the land is too dry for other plants. It is one of the most noxious weeds known in the West, although as yet it is not very common.

benefit of the inspectors coming from the districts. The Manitoba Agricultural college has done much in doing a good work in the matter of noxious weed control, yet there are thousands of farmers in the province who never get the real benefit of the college and for these farmers the next best thing is to procure the best bit of West "Farm Weeds" is one of the best books

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