

WEED CONTROL.

In dealing with the control of weeds the writer is well aware that the methods outlined and the statements made are not applicable to *every* condition met with in the province. Each farm requires particular treatment and often the system must be modified because of the variation of the seasons. But every farmer should learn the general principles underlying weed control and soil cultivation, and so modify or adapt these that they will apply to his own farm. If we are not capable of doing this then we have missed our vocation. Weeds wait on no man, college professor, weed inspector or truck farmer.

It might be well to state that the magnitude of the weed problem is due, not to the aggressiveness of weeds so much as to the carelessness of man.

The main problem is to so keep weeds under control that the amount grown on any farm each year does not materially affect the year's production of crops. Following are a few suggestions that will aid in keeping weeds under control:

1. Fence the farm as soon as practicable. Keep your own stock at home, keep your neighbour's stock away and prevent the making of trails across your fields.
 2. Every farmer in the West has at least a few acres of clean land for seed production. Sow only clean seed on that lot and go over that field several times during the summer and make sure that there are no stray weeds. A safer and saner investment of time would be hard to find.
 3. Be careful of the feed you give your stock. Crush weed infested grain if possible and if there are weeds in the rough feed, do not spread the manure on the field until it has become well rotted.
 4. Keep all roads, fence corners and waste places free from weeds. There is very little sense in having around the outside of a well cultivated field a fringe of, say, Russian thistle, tumbling mustard or Canada thistle.
 5. Get acquainted with the weeds. Learn to know them by their manner of growth, by the nature of their seed or by a few pieces of the plant if found in some fodder or straw. Get to know the weeds, no matter in what form they may come before you.
 6. Be always on the watch. Many a farm today would be worth double its present value if the owner had stepped across and pulled those first few weeds. It is not the first weed that does the damage but being neglected through want of information or carelessness, the seed of that plant gives many thousands of plants for the next year. A single tumbling mustard seed is capable of producing a million and a half of seeds.
- Plan the farm work to make it possible to do fall cultivation. It is not so much the weeds you will kill in the fall, but more the fact that conditions are thereby made right for germination in the spring. At no other time of the year is it possible to germinate so large a number of weed seeds; in fact that is about the only time of the year in which it is possible to germinate the weed seeds in the top inch of soil.