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BRANCH OF THE SEED COMMISSIONER

Department of Agriculture

LIBRARY

SEED TESTING.

MAR 21 1966

SENDING SAMPLES.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

1. Address samples,—

- (a) to the Seed Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, City of Saskatchewan, will be carried free of postage; and
- (b) to the Seed Laboratory, Department of Agriculture, Calgary, Alberta, for the West of Canada, where all samples sent must have postage prepaid.

2. Strong manilla paper or cotton bags should be used for sending samples of seeds by mail. Glass bottles or cardboard boxes are apt to be broken in the mails.

3. All samples should be marked by the sender with,—

- (a) his name and address;
- (b) a distinguishing number, letter or other mark;
- (c) the word or words 'purity,' 'grade,' or 'germination,' according to the information desired. During the busy season, germination tests may not be made of timothy, clovers and cereal seeds unless there is reason to suspect that they are deficient in percentage vitality. It is not necessary to send a letter with samples of seeds for test.

4. Size of samples for test.

For purity and grading—

Timothy, alsike and seeds of like size.	1 ounce.
Red clover and seeds of like size.	2 ounces.
Cereal grains.	1 pound.

For official analysis under the provisions of the Seed Control Act, twice the above quantities should be sent in sealed packets.

For germination test, smaller quantities of seeds will suffice.

5. To draw samples for test.

The analysis of a sample is worthless and often misleading unless the bulk lot from which it is taken is thoroughly uniform in quality. First prove the uniformity of the bulk lot by drawing samples from the top, middle and bottom of a number of sacks, measure or weigh out a small quantity of the seed from each sample and count the number of the most prevalent foreign seeds in each measured quantity. If the samples drawn prove to be reasonably uniform, mix them together to make a composite sample for purity analysis and grading.

6. Reports on purity and grading are seldom delayed more than two days from the time when the samples are received. Germination tests require from ten to twenty-eight days according to the kind of seed. When the first test shows a wide variation between duplicate samples used for check test, the report is not issued until a retest is made.

7. Samples will be tested free of charge during the season of 1912-13. Uncleaned samples of timothy, red clover, alfalfa and alsike seed that are quite evidently below grade No. 3 will be marked 'Rejected' without submitting them to a purity test of quantitative analysis. Each purity test requires approximately one hour to complete. During the busy season of the trade, seed merchants should endeavour to restrict the number of samples sent in for test to those re-cleaned seeds the analysis of which is indispensable to them.