



FIELD BEANS IN CANADA

BY

W. L. GRAHAM, B.S.A., *Assistant Field Husbandman.*

Field beans comprise many types or species of which the bush or dwarf varieties, including the kidney and haricot types, are grown for the production of ripened seed for human food.

VALUE.

Beans have a two-fold value. They rank among the valuable foods, containing a higher percentage of protein than wheat or oats and even meat. Beans are also of value from a soil cultural aspect as they belong to a most important class of agricultural plants termed legumes which are capable of taking up indirectly the free nitrogen of the air and storing it in tubercles on the root systems of the plants in an available form of plant food for future crops.

PRODUCTION IN CANADA.

In Canada the production of field beans, commercially, has been carried on for the past sixty years, being confined largely to Southern Ontario. In the year 1916 according to the Census and Statistics Reports of the Dominion Department of Trade and Commerce, an area of 32,500 acres was planted to beans. The average yield per acre was 12.7 bushels with a market value of \$5.40 per bushel. The total value of the crop was \$2,228,000. It will be recalled that in certain districts in 1916 conditions for cropping were very unfavourable. These conditions prevailed in our best bean-producing sections with the result that the average yield per acre is low. In normal seasons in the past the yield per acre has been approximately 17 bushels.

At the present time field beans are grown in four provinces of the Dominion of Canada. In 1916 Ontario had a yield of 317,000 bushels; Quebec, 78,000 bushels; Nova Scotia, 13,800 bushels, and New Brunswick, 3,800 bushels. Thus in the past season 76.8 per cent of the beans produced in Canada, were grown in the province of Ontario.

During the past two years the price of commercial beans has more than doubled. In March, 1915, beans were selling for \$3 per bushel. In March, 1917, the prices quoted for beans range from \$6 to \$7 per bushel.

SOIL.

Many types of soil are suitable for the growing of beans providing there is good drainage. Underdrainage is not absolutely necessary but is advisable here as with

DOMINION EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

J. H. GRISDALE, B.Agr.,
Director.

W. L. GRAHAM, B.S.A.,
Asst. Field Husbandman.

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