

spring opens up. These plants may have ripe seeds as early in the season as the middle of June. It will ripen seeds on plants 2 inches high. In other words it practically ripens seeds throughout the season. Its ability to produce such enormous amounts of seed is what makes it so troublesome.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR CONTROL.**—When the first few plants are noticed, care should be taken to pull and burn every plant that has developed seed and mark the spot for subsequent inspection. Although vigilance in pulling the first straggling French weed plants is well repaid as it postpones the evil day, still it generally turns out that when a farmer on our heavy clay soils once gets French weed, he has got it for keeps.

Early careful fallowing preceded by some form of fall tillage so as to encourage generous germination and a bountiful supply of stored moisture for the following crop, would seem to be the foundation stone upon which the successful control of stinkweed is laid. This practice supplemented by judicious harrowing of the crop the following spring just as young weeds are peeping up, will usually keep this persistent pest in fair control. Of course when soil becomes infested with stinkweed or most other weeds it becomes more necessary to perform each field operation, such as ploughing, harrowing, seeding, etc., with greater care, so that the best results from each operation may be secured, while the better crop thus obtained in some measure helps to repay the cost of the continual fight which it is necessary to put up. Seeding down is also another general purpose method of controlling most weeds including stinkweed.

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#### WILD MUSTARD—*Brassica arvensis*, L.

**OTHER ENGLISH NAMES.**—Charlock, herrick, cadlock, fieldkale, Ontario mustard.

An annual introduced from Europe. Stems erect branching one to three feet high, rough with stiff hair, somewhat purple at the junction of the branches. The lower leaves are stalked and deeply indented or lobed with a large terminal lobe, upper leaves nearly stalkless. Flowers bright yellow about two-thirds of an inch across. Seed pod one to two inches long and slightly notched or constricted between the seeds, ending in a long two edged beak which contains one or two seeds and which usually breaks off as the pods reach maturity. Each pod contains 10 to 15 seeds and an average plant is capable of producing 15,000 seeds. The seeds, if given no opportunity to germinate, may, according to recent investigations by the Department of Agriculture, Ontario, remain in the soil 10 to 15 years without losing their vitality. Seeds will germinate best through  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 inches of soil, but not at all through 5 inches. The seed germinates at a low temperature, hence fall cultivation is very effective.

Closely allied to the wild mustard are the following species which require watching. The methods for controlling will apply to these as well as to the wild mustard.