

These are the foods which are supplied plants in the form of manure or expensive chemical fertilizer. Weeds, on account of their extensive root-systems, may collect a large portion of the food which other plants require and obtain, if weeds are not present. Weeds deprive a crop of a large amount of available plant food and rob succeeding crops as well.

3. **THEY CROWD, CHOKE, AND SHADE USEFUL PLANTS.**—Weeds take up a great deal of space that should be occupied by useful plants; and since they usually grow more vigorously and are more prolific than useful plants, they crowd, shade, and partly choke the seedlings of the desired crop, and prevent the access of adequate heat and fresh air. Black Bindweed often covers completely many plants among which it grows.

In some useful plants, such as carrots and parsnips, germination is slow, and the seedlings during early life develop slowly. If weeds are allowed to compete with such slow-growing root-crops the young plants are soon smothered and the yield in autumn is very small. Weeds such as Dock, Plantain and Chickweed, which creep on the surface, effectually cover large areas of ground which should belong to the crop; weeds such as Bindweed, which climb or wind around the stems of plants in order to place their own leaves in a favorable position, press the leaves of the plants supporting them and prevent their proper development. Again, many weaker-stemmed crops, such as cereals, are often pulled to the ground by the weight of climbing or winding weeds. In general, weeds prevent the development and decrease the value of farm crops.

4. **THEY INCREASE LABOR AND EXPENSES.**—Weeds are a source of great loss to the farmer as they require much labor, time, and expense, to eradicate or keep them in check. A farmer may have to change a good, established rotation, or even grow a less profitable crop, in order to keep in check some bad weed which has a good start. This may mean extra labor and expense. Even after cultivation, hoeing, or weeding, many weeds may be har-