

## SEED TESTING—INSTRUCTIONS FOR TAKING AND SENDING SAMPLES.

**Address Samples.**—(a) To the Seed Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, when samples are sent from Eastern Canada. (b) Samples from Manitoba and Saskatchewan must be addressed to Dominion Seed Laboratory, Winnipeg, Manitoba. (c) Samples from Alberta and British Columbia must be sent to Dominion Seed Laboratory, Calgary, Alberta.

**Postage.**—Letters and samples not exceeding 12 ounces in weight go *free* when addressed to the Seed Commissioner, Ottawa. Samples weighing more than 12 ounces and those addressed to Winnipeg and Calgary must have postage prepaid.

**Size of Samples for Test.**—For purity test and grading—Timothy, alsike and seeds of like size, 1 ounce (about 7 teaspoonfuls). Red clover and seeds of like size, 2 ounces (about 12 teaspoonfuls). Wheat, oats, barley or buckwheat, 1 pound. When a germination test only is wanted, about 1,000 seeds.

**Strong manilla paper or cotton bags** should be used for sending samples of seeds. Glass bottles, cardboard boxes, ordinary envelopes, or thin paper bags are apt to be broken in the mails. Those not having strong seed envelopes are recommended to use small cotton bags, enclosing name and address of sender and designation of seed on a card or piece of paper *inside* the bag.

When several samples are enclosed in thin paper bags and sent under one cover, two or more of them are often broken open in the mails and the contents mixed or lost.

**Mark Samples with.**—(1) Name and address of sender. (2) Some letter, number or other designation by which samples of the same kind of seed may be distinguished. (3) The grade and test number if the seed has been tested before. *This is important.*

**Charge for Seed Testing.**—Twenty-five samples will be tested free of charge for any one individual or firm in one year. Twenty-five cents per test is charged on all samples in excess of this number.

**Variation in Tests.**—The grade given by the laboratory on a lot of seed is for the sample received and kept on file, and may safely be used for seed from which the sample was taken only when the sample accurately represents the average quality of the whole lot. The Seed Branch stands behind the grade which it issues on samples, and is prepared to confirm the grade on subsequent samples provided there is not an unreasonable difference between samples said to be from the same lot of seed. Two or more samples taken from widely different parts of a quantity of seed may show a great range in number of weed seeds, and even in the quality of the seed. This is a frequent source of misunderstanding on the part of senders of samples, and the cause of it lies in the fact that the portion sent us does not represent the average of all the seed to be graded. The extent of the difference between samples from the same lot will be greater in seed that has not been thoroughly mixed and bulked, and in seed containing a large number of weed seeds.

To secure a proper sample of seed for test it is first essential that the lot to be sampled be fairly uniform in composition. If the seed is in bags just as it came from the thresher there will be some bags from certain parts of the field of much higher quality and containing fewer weed seeds than seed from other parts. In such a case it is better to sample the bags separately. When the seed is known to be fairly uniform one sample may be taken to represent the lot. This sample should be made up of small portions from several different parts as from the top, middle and bottom of each bag. (A sampler for taking seed from any part of a closed bag may be bought from any wholesale seed dealer.) The smaller quantities so drawn should be thoroughly mixed together and the proper quantity taken from the mixture to send for testing. It is recommended that the sender keep a duplicate of this sample in case the correctness of his sample or grade is ever called in question.