

National Live-stock Records, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, can be sent free.

Send in your applications and they will receive prompt attention.
H. G. WADE,
Ottawa. Registrar and Editor.

The Bacon Pig.

Bacon hogs ready for the market should possess long, deep bodies, with straight or slightly arching top and straight underlines.

The shoulders should be fairly upright, joined closely to the body, and rounded nicely over the top from side to side. The bodies should not, however, be any thicker through the shoulders at points more than half way up from the underline to the top line than through points at a similar height situated between the shoulder and the ham.

The croup should slope but slightly from the loin to the root of the tail. It should be of good length, and should maintain its width throughout, which width should be the same as that of the body and shoulders.

In short, a straightedge laid against the side from the shoulder-point to the tail should touch at every point.

The ribs should spring out well from the spinal column, but should fall in fairly vertical lines once their greatest curvature is attained, thus making a deep-bodied rather than a round-bodied animal.

The body should be carried on good stout, clean, straight-boned legs, free from weakness at the pasterns and with square-set hocks.

The feet should be strong and compact, the animal standing right up on his toes.

The neck should be of medium thickness, with no tendency to coarseness.

The head should be clean-cut, and free from flabbiness at the jaw.

SUITABLE BREEDS.

As already suggested, pigs most nearly conforming to these requirements are found in greatest numbers among Large Improved Yorkshires, Tamworths and Berkshires, and among their grades and cross-breeds.

By "grade" is meant an animal the product of a pure-bred sire; that is, a sire registered or eligible for registration in some generally recognized herdbook, and from a dam not so registered nor eligible for registration, whether she have none or many crosses of pure-bred blood. By "cross-bred" is meant an animal the product of a pure-bred sire and from a pure-bred dam, the dam being, however, of a different breed from the sire.

Some of the more striking peculiarities of these different breeds of pigs suitable for bacon production are given below. These statements are made after several years' experience of a varied character with each sort.

Large Improved Yorkshires, white pigs, have been found to be a prolific and fairly early-maturing breed. In shape they come very nearly being ideal bacon pigs. They furnish a very large proportion of carcasses answering the requirements of the best bacon trade. The hams are well developed, and the proportion of fat to lean is usually about right.

The sows are docile, good milkers, and very prolific. The boars are very impressive, seldom if ever failing to leave a strong impress on their progeny. They are usually robust, healthy animals, but are not quite as well suited for pasturing as are pigs from some of the other breeds.

Berkshires, black pigs with more or less white in the face and white points, have shown themselves to be not so prolific as some other breeds, but to be very early-maturing animals. Their admirers claim for them such a superiority in this respect and in their apparently superior powers to assimilate food as to more than make up for the rather small litters which are not infrequently borne. In conformation they are not quite so well suited for the bacon trade as are some of the other breeds. They are very well suited for pasturing, having few if any equals in this respect, and giving very satisfactory returns, indeed, while being fed in this way. They are quite free from the affections of the skin and other troubles which quite often cause loss with white and red skinned sorts while on pasture.

Tamworths, red pigs, have here shown themselves a quite prolific and fairly early-maturing breed. They are almost invariably deep-sided and long-bodied, but are not infrequently rather light in the ham. They are fairly rapid growers, but are somewhat slower to come to maturity than are some other breeds. They cross well with Berkshires and with the Large Yorkshire. As sires they are fairly impressive.—[J. H. Grisdale in Bulletin 51.]

Tell Your Wants

TO OVER 30,000 OF CANADA'S BEST FARMERS BY ADVERTISING IN THE "WANT AND FOR SALE" COLUMN OF THE "FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE," LONDON, ONT.

FARM.

Dodder (*Cuscuta epithymum*).

A large part of the trouble coming from the introduction and dispersal of pernicious weeds in grasses, clovers and other cultivated plants, is to be laid directly to the doors of irresponsible or careless seedsmen, who import seeds from Europe; and I may say that nearly all our worst weeds have come from that continent. During the past year, especially, there has been imported and distributed through this Province a comparatively new weed, known as Dodder. Although there are several species, *Cuscuta epithymum* is the only one that has yet proven itself dangerous in Ontario.

Dodder is a plant that differs from the majority of plants, in not being able to draw its food either from soil or air, but belongs to the parasites, or to those plants which live upon the juices or reserve products of other plants. Dodder seed when placed in the soil germinates in practically the same manner as other plants, but instead of two green leaves there appears above the surface a very inconspicuous yellow shoot. This is self-supporting, until the store of nourishment contained in the seed has become exhausted, when it throws out haustoria "suckers" at points where the stem comes in contact with that of the clover, and by fixing these sucking discs into the stem establishes a union which enables it to draw the juices of the clover in much the same manner as the rootlets of the common green-leaved plants draw nutriment from the soil. When this union is effected the dodder plant disconnects itself from the earth, but still continues to grow very

which he submitted to Dr. Fletcher, Ottawa, and which proved to be dodder. In 1904 it had spread so as to produce a sort of blight throughout the field. The alfalfa was cut once, and gave a yield of one and one-half tons per acre. In 1905 six acres were cut, and gave a yield of about one ton of dodder stems and alfalfa per acre. The remainder of the field the tenant did not consider worth harvesting, as the dodder had taken entire possession of the crop. As to whether this tenant should be legally responsible for allowing this pernicious weed to go to seed repeatedly in the midst of a magnificent clover-producing center, to the detriment of not only the owner of the property, but possibly the whole Province, is a matter I shall leave to your judgment.

The history of its introduction is only a repetition of what has often occurred before. The seed was imported, offered for sale at a low figure, and, as a result, the dealer's purpose was readily accomplished.

In Germany this weed has proven a national calamity, as it nearly forced farmers to abandon the growth of clover, and the above is evidence of what it is capable of accomplishing in Canada under favorable conditions.

As to methods of eradication: When small dodder-infested spots are first noted they should be mowed as closely as possible with a scythe several feet beyond where the yellow vines are observed. After the vegetation has been removed these spots should be spaded, as cutting is not reliable. The small clusters of flowers that produce practically all the seed are near the root of the clover stem, and will often remain on the stubble after the alfalfa has been cut, and there ripen their seed. The writer examined a large number of these dodder capsules containing seed, and found that those produced at the upper part of the clover stem were practically barren, while those near the root were well filled with seeds.

Burning small areas is effective, but a considerable degree of heat must be maintained for several minutes

to destroy the seeds. This may be secured by covering the ground with straw or shavings well covered with kerosene. For entire fields, cultivation with hoed crops, such as roots or corn, for two successive seasons, is usually successful, but rotation should be modified so as to leave out leguminous plants until the vitality of all seed remaining in the soil has been destroyed.

Unfortunately, the new Canadian Seed Control Act, which, to use the words addressed to me a few days ago by a wholesale seedsmen in Toronto, "is proving the very best thing that could possibly have happened to raise the standard of the seed trade in Canada," does not include this weed, so that having no protection, we should use every precaution to avoid

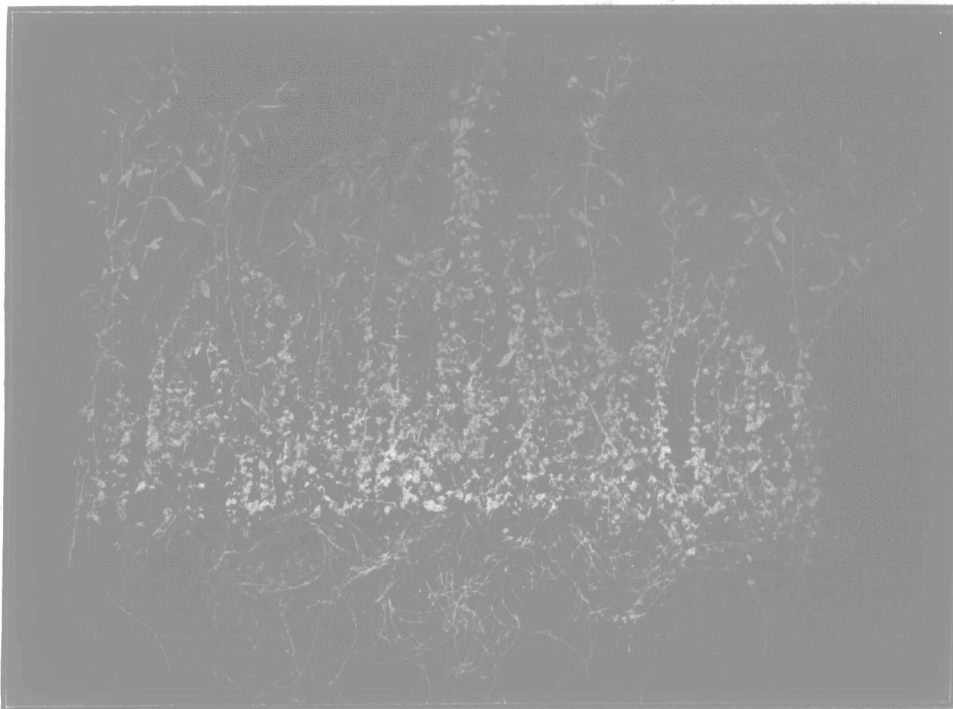
sowing clover, and especially alfalfa seed containing dodder as an impurity. If a guarantee cannot be obtained from the dealer, the seed should be carefully examined by the buyer before sowing. H. H. MILLER.

[Note.—Six species of dodder, or love-vine, have been reported in Canada—one on flax, two on clover and alfalfa, and the others on non-economic plants. The Nevada Agricultural Experiment Station reports that the common clover dodder, *Cuscuta epithymum*, has such a decided preference in the Northwest for alfalfa as to justify the name given it there, Alfalfa Dodder. Mr. Dewey, a weed expert at Washington, states that *Cuscuta arvensis*, which also occurs on both clover and alfalfa, is the most injurious native dodder east of the Mississippi.

Earlier than the first appearance, to which Mr. Miller refers, the observant farmer will likely notice on his clover or alfalfa the tangle of yellowish or reddish yellow stems, without leaves, but bearing the clusters of small whitish, pinkish or yellowish flowers described in his letter. Cutting and burning at this stage eradicates it.

The conditions in Canada are probably not so favorable to this weed as in Germany. Reports of its existence here and there have come to this office for many years, but we have not heard of its becoming generally and firmly established in any neighborhood.

A lens is needed to detect its presence in clover seed. The seeds of both species named resemble clover seed in shape; both are dull in color and rough when seen under the microscope, whereas the seed of clover is bright and smooth. Those of *C. epithymum* are much smaller than clover seed. The seed of *C. arvensis* is about the same size as white clover seed.—[Editor.]



Dodder.