

used should be that which deposits the cuttings at one side where they will not be trampled upon by the horses.

Sometimes the alfalfa may be bound and thus handled in a satisfactory manner if the alfalfa is of sufficient weight.

Probably the best and most economical implement with which to harvest alfalfa for seed is the old-fashioned self-rake reaper. This machine delivers the cut alfalfa in convenient sized bunches with the least possible agitation and consequent shattering of seed. Many old alfalfa seed producers are equipped with this implement, and where much seed is produced it is doubtless a paying investment. It is especially desirable where alfalfa is grown in wide rows.

Curing

The piles or bunches should dry thoroughly before threshing, and this will require a somewhat longer period than curing alfalfa hay, as there is much less leaf surface through which the moisture may escape. It is customary to pile carefully in medium well rounded cocks with a fork and thresh from the field when dry. It may be stacked if desired, but if this is done it usually soon goes into a sweat which continues for three or four weeks. The sweating process results in brighter appearing seed, but it is not as a rule considered worth while if conditions are good for threshing direct from the field.

In hauling seed alfalfa, it will invariably save much choice seed to use tight bottom hay racks or spread a canvas over the rack bottom.



Sheep, a good paying side of mixed farming, at present much neglected in Western Canada

Threshing

The ideal machine for threshing is a regular special alfalfa huller. These machines are provided with special devices for removing the seed from the dry green pods in the most efficient manner and later thoroughly cleaning the seed from the chaff without waste. However, many large seed growers still use common grain separators equipped with special alfalfa sieves. They figure that the waste of seed is at least compensated for by the greater rapidity with which the work is done. Still in many instances the huller will be able to make wages by re-threshing the straw piles left by the big machines.

The average grower in the Dakotas is not in a position to use a special alfalfa huller, but if he can produce good alfalfa seed he should not permit this fact to stand in the way for when properly equipped and well handled a grain separator will perform very satisfactory service in threshing alfalfa.

First, the machine must be provided with special alfalfa seed sieves, which any thrasher manufacturer can supply, and the concaves should be reversed. The machine should be fed rather slowly and not choked by careless pitching. Thus equipped and handled any good thrasher-man can do satisfactory work.

Save the Seed

So extremely valuable is home-grown alfalfa seed that every farmer who is in position to produce it should do so if only for his personal use and the benefit of his immediate neighborhood. Hundreds of farmers have been growing choice acclimated and hardy alfalfa in a small way for many years. The seed from these acclimated and proven fields should not be permitted to go to waste if it is possible to save it. Pretty nearly all the real failures with alfalfa may be put down to the sowing of seed of doubtful acclimated hardiness with which the

general seed market is continually flooded. We know a man in northern South Dakota, who has a 10-acre field of Grimm alfalfa growing on his farm for the past 14 years and just last season did he awaken to a realization of the value of the seed from that field and save some of it. That field doubtless might have grown at least enough seed to sow a thousand acres of Grimm alfalfa. If this thousand acres of such alfalfa was growing in that neighborhood to-day land values alone would be increased by thousands of dollars.

By all means save the good home grown acclimated seed.

Cleaning the Seed

When you have a surplus of seed to market, let it be real seed and not a conglomeration of trash, weed-seed and shrunken grains. Clean it and reclean it until only the choice seed is put upon the market. Why sell seed for 7 or 8 cents a pound to some seedsmen who will run it through a cleaner and sell it for 20 cents? Isn't that easy money just as much at home in your pocket as in his? One of the greatest mistakes that many farmers make who offer seed for sale is their failure to reclean it. It doesn't look good to send out a seed sample full of weed, seed and dirt. It doesn't look good for the grower and it doesn't look good to the intending purchaser. Your lower price for dirty seed is wisely overlooked by the shrewd buyer and he usually pays double your price to the careful seedsmen with the clean seed. Quality counts, not sometimes but always, but

The High Bush Cranberry

To the Editor of The Western Home Monthly, Winnipeg

For some years past I have been making a study of the high bush cranberry, which is found growing wild in sections of New York, Vermont, Maine, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota and Canada. The bush closely resembles the ordinary snowball, and is often used as an ornamental shrub; the berries, which ripen in August and September, are a brilliant red in color, and in some localities are used for making jams and jellies. The characteristics of this shrub vary greatly in different localities. I have found it very interesting to study the various types, and have gathered together a fairly large collection of bushes from widely separated localities. I would take pleasure in exchanging information with anyone interested in this shrub, and especially would like to get in touch with persons from whom I could purchase a few hundred wild plants and several bushels of ripe fruit during this summer and fall. I would also like to hear from persons who have tried to raise this shrub for its fruit, and what success they have had.

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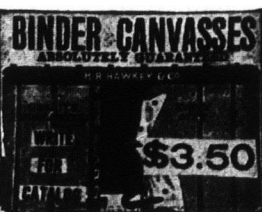
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