

Two classes of weeds are injurious in growing clover seed. The first are those whose seeds are in the soil ready to grow if the clover fails to make a good stand. In spots where the clover has been killed out or makes a thin stand, they will grow and produce seeds to pollute the clover seed crop. An even, vigorous stand of clover throughout, either smothers out this class of weeds or prevents their seeds from germinating.

There is another class of weeds, however, which are able to compete more or less successfully with the clover plants and therefore occur wherever they have been introduced and allowed to spread. A good stand of clover tends to hold them in check, but not to the same extent that it does those of the first class. Once introduced into a field, weeds of this second class grow in the clover seed crop until they have been destroyed by proper cultivation and crop rotation.

Weeds of the second class include ribgrass, high flowering catchfly, wild carrot, and black medick.

To prevent weeds from maturing seeds in clover seed crops the following precautions must be taken:—

1. *Eradicate ribgrass, catchfly, black medick and wild carrot before the clover is seeded.*

2. *An even, vigorous stand of the clover seed crop will keep down green foxtail, plantain, lamb's quarters, ragweed, docks, etc. (See instructions for securing a good stand of clover on page 15.)*

There are always plenty of seeds in the soil ready to produce weeds to occupy space where through any cause cultivated plants fail to make a good stand.

3. *If the first crop of clover is taken for hay, cut it as early as possible. If this is done, the second crop is not only able to get a good start towards producing such a stand as will keep the weeds in check but it is ready to be cut for seed before some of the weeds are sufficiently matured to cause trouble.*

4. *Weedy patches should be cut green or if allowed to mature, should not be raked up and included with the crop drawn in and threshed for seed. Wherever the clover fails, weeds usually grow profusely and it is these spots in a field that often contribute largely towards the impurities found in the threshed seed.*