

The following comprehends a complete classification, in respect to quality and staple, of Canadian wools in the grease, with the exception of tubwashed, which, as previously stated, cannot be satisfactorily arranged:—

Western	}	Domestic fine medium combing.
Eastern		
Western	}	Domestic medium combing.
Eastern		
Western	}	Domestic low medium combing.
Eastern		
Western	}	Domestic coarse combing.
Eastern		
Western	}	Domestic lustre combing.
Eastern		
Western	}	Domestic fine medium clothing.
Eastern		
Western	}	Domestic medium clothing.
Eastern		
Western	}	Domestic low medium clothing.
Eastern		
Western range fine staple.		
Western range medium staple.		
Western range low staple.		
Western range fine clothing.		
Western range medium clothing.		
Western range low clothing.		
Rejections.		
Grey and black.		
Locks and pieces.		
Tags.		

Fort William acts as the dividing line for Eastern and Western wool. Domestic refers to wool produced in small lots upon the farm; while range applies to wool raised under ranching conditions. Domestic grades are also offered upon the market in the washed state.

It is difficult to correlate the types of wool produced by the different breeds with the foregoing grades, for the reason that within each breed there is always a wide range and great variety of qualities. Grading is performed entirely irrespective of breed type, and Shropshire or Hampshire wool may be included in the same grade with Oxford or Suffolk. Fleeces of several hundred sheep of one of the Down breeds, which are the most variable, may fill every category except fine and braid. The wool of the Cotswold, Lincoln and Leicester is the most constant in quality, and seldom is classed as other than braid.

STAPLE OR LENGTH.

Fleeces are separated very generally, according to staple, into two lengths, combing and clothing. Three inches is ordinarily the dividing point. Combing is the long wool, intended for worsted purposes. Clothing is too short for the combs and must be carded, entering mostly into woollen goods. Delaine, a word frequently used in connection with Western wools, signifies a combing fine or Merino fleece.

In Great Britain further divisions are made into what are technically termed Hogg and Wether classes. Hogg represents the first fleece shorn from a sheep; and Wether, all subsequent ones. For Down breeds, as Oxford, Suffolk, Hampshire, Shropshire and Southdown, the titles, Teg and Ewe, are sometimes substituted for Hogg and Wether, respectively. This classification may well be adopted in this country with some types of wools, since lamb's wool, in most instances, is not only longer than other fleeces, but, owing to its finer texture and tapered end, possesses better spinning qualities.