

indeed is this the case that many intelligent farmers will tell you to-day that it is absolutely impossible to get it out of land which has become thoroughly infested. This weed is so abundant about Winnipeg and in the rich lands along the Red River Valley that in the early spring the whole country seems to be covered by a deep green velvety carpet, and yet in that very district some of the farms are kept clean by good farmers who do not believe that it is impossible for any weed to be exterminated if they only go the right way about it. Now this, I believe, all things considered, is the worst weed in Canada, and yet around Winnipeg and in other parts of Manitoba where it is worst, there are farms practically clear of it now, which were once thoroughly infested, simply by the farmers understanding its nature and taking the proper steps to keep their farms clear.

WILD PRAIRIE ROSE.

In the south-west of Manitoba the worst weed is said to be the Wild Prairie Rose, a beautiful little bush that grows only as high as your hand but bears often half a dozen lovely flowers on it, all open at the same time. It has an extensive system of deep underground woody rootstocks which are difficult to destroy. This fact has gained for it the reputation of being the weed of all others which gives them most trouble, according to the methods of farming which are generally adopted in that district. This was the worst weed all the time they did not know how to get rid of it, but they have learned how it can be controlled, by disk harrowing the land twice at short intervals, after ploughing and now you do not hear so much about it.

When you travel through different sections of the country you find certain weeds increasing and giving trouble owing to the method of farming followed, and these weeds are usually called the worst. Instances of these are Couch grass, which must be fought with shallow ploughing, and Indian hay or Sweet grass, which requires the opposite. It is for every man to find out the weed that causes him most trouble, and I make the statement that there is no weed which cannot be fought successfully if you will study its nature. Of course there are some weeds which are much more difficult to eradicate than others and which seem to be so thoroughly established in different parts of the country that their eradication is a matter of extreme difficulty.

THE SOW THISTLE.

For instance, there is the Perennial Sow thistle, now very common all through Quebec, down into New Brunswick and right up into Ontario, which is certainly the worst weed in many districts. It possesses to a superlative degree every characteristic of a bad weed. It is a deep-rooted perennial of rapid and vigorous growth, with many fleshy underground stems, the tip of each of which develops into a strong plant which crowds out the crop amongst which it grows. A single seedling throws out several shoots, so that the first year you have a seedling which, at the end of the season, has spread out in every direction forming a colony of young plants around a central point, each one of which forms a rosette of leaves as big as a tea plate, and then the following spring these spread out and prevent any crop plant from developing beneath their shade. From each of these, later in the season, springs up a tall stem which bears a large number of seeds furnished with copious white down which carries the seed far and wide, each one of which may found a new colony of plants. The down itself is also a cause of inconvenience to threshers by breaking up into particles which get into their eyes and give rise to painful irritation.

This weed was introduced from Europe by accident and has been allowed to spread widely throughout Canada because its noxious nature was not known. It is a very aggressive pest, perhaps worse than the Canada thistle. The Canada thistle is well known and good farmers know they can get it out of their land. Even where the Canada thistle is not so well known, its notoriety has spread before it, and so soon as it is recognized a feeling of panic takes possession of the farmers

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