

## SEED-IMPURITIES.

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PRINTED below is a statement of extraneous seeds found in commercial samples of agricultural seed on the New Zealand market, showing, by means of a key, the relative frequency of occurrence of each, and whether harmful or otherwise. The list is based on the results of some thousands of purity analyses of seeds made in the Biological Laboratory during the past four years. The list is now printed on the back of the report forms issued under the Department's seed-testing system, and affords a useful and handy reference for the person to whom the report is furnished, enabling him to estimate the importance or otherwise of the impurities specified by weight and numbers per cent. in the report. In many cases, even in comparatively well-cleaned lines of seed, the number of different extraneous seeds specified appears rather formidable, and to the uninitiated the sample might seem quite unsuitable for sowing. A reference to the table, however, will put the matter in its practical proportions. Unless the seed is required for some very special purpose the majority of extraneous seeds in a sample are not a matter of much consequence, although the presence of any one in large numbers would, of course, be a drawback. On the other hand, the really dangerous or troublesome impurities the inclusion of which should not be tolerated are clearly indicated in the list, and it is for the persons concerned to act on the information given.

### KEY.

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|---|---|
| EC = Extremely common.                                  | (i) = Useful seed.  |
| VC = Very common.                                       | (j) = Found mainly in imported seed.                        |
| C = Common.   | (k) = Found only in New-Zealand-grown seed.                 |
| RC = Rather common.                                     | (l) = Indicator European lucerne.                           |
| RR = Rather rare.                                       | (m) = Indicator Asiatic lucerne.                            |
| R = Rare.   | (n) = Indicator American meadow-fescue.                     |
| VR = Very rare.   | (o) = Plant not yet recorded in New Zealand.                |
| ER = Extremely rare.                                    | (p) = Weed in damp pastures.                                |
| (a) = Dangerous.  | (q) = Sometimes used as an adulterant.                      |
| (b) = Dangerous (except on well-stocked sheep-country). | (r) = Sclerotium of a fungus said to be injurious to stock. |
| (c) = Troublesome.                                      | (s) = Troublesome in arable land.                           |
| (d) = Not troublesome.                                  | (t) = Troublesome in permanent pasture.                     |
| (e) = Weed of pasture.                                  | (u) = Occasionally sown under special conditions.           |
| (f) = Weed of arable land and temporary crop.           | (v) = Harmful to wool.                                      |
| (g) = Weed of waste places, roadsides, stockyards, &c.  |   |
| (h) = A small percentage in a line of little moment.    |   |