

fescue both benefit from cooler moist conditions prior and subsequently to cutting, so that the seed may be prevented from rushing to an apparent ripeness before it is properly matured.

BROWN-TOP.

Southland has only recently taken up brown-top seed production, which until a few years ago was confined to the Waipu district of Auckland Province. There are many areas of pure brown-top in Southland where, until the specific identity of the grass was known, it was allowed to seed and go to waste. Previously known locally as couch and twitch, brown-top is now systematically seeded in quantity, a very fine quality seed being produced. All seed is fully dressed, and compares more than favourably—from a germination and purity viewpoint particularly—with the brown-top from any other district. Considerable quantities are absorbed within the Dominion, and in 1926 approximately 25 tons, valued at £7,000, was exported, mainly to the United States.

Brown-top is harvested in the same manner as other grasses. Some growers cut the crop far too early, in which case the seed is practically useless. The ripening crop is deceptive, appearing ripe when far from it. For harvesting, the plants should be nearly dry, and the seed not quite on the point of loosening in the glume.

WHITE CLOVER.

It is only of recent years that white clover has been seeded in any quantity in Southland. Last season 185 acres were devoted to this crop, 21,160 lb. of seed being produced. The Southland seed is taken mainly off permanent pasture, and is usually of the wild white type. With the more extensive use of lime and artificial fertilizers the clover content of pastures in the province is increasing, and there will be no doubt an increasing amount of seed saved. The success of the New Zealand white clover seed trade is dependent upon an export demand, which demand should increase materially with the introduction of a system of crop inspection and certification of genuine old pasture types.

LOTUS MAJOR.

A fair amount of Lotus major is produced in the province. The seed, mainly in the Mokoreta and Waiau districts, is usually of splendid quality and entirely free from other species of Lotus. Some growers appear to cut well on the green side, as is evidenced by the high percentage of brown shrivelled seeds in a few lines. The quantity placed on the market would be about 8 to 10 tons.

TIMOTHY.

A small quantity of timothy-seed of splendid quality is saved by one or two growers. It is regrettable that there is not more produced, so that our annual importation of approximately 100 tons might be reduced.

COCKSFOOT.

Cocksfoot is very widely distributed in Southland, but the acreage actually set aside for seeding is small, and the total amount of seed