

## PHALARIS TUBEROSA.

*Phalaris tuberosa* is recognized as a very valuable grass for certain localities in Australia, but a drawback to its wider use is the high price of seed. Last season an attempt was made to produce seed in New Zealand under certification. Seasonal conditions were not of the best, and the seed crop in respect of two of the areas was a failure. From a third area 2,500 lb. of seed was obtained from 6 acres, which indicates that the prospect in regard to the production of *Phalaris tuberosa* seed is quite hopeful.

## WHEAT.

The acreage under wheat certification during the 1935-36 season was more than double that of the previous season. Entries were confined almost entirely to four varieties—Solid Straw Tuscan, Cross 7, Hunter's II, and Dreadnought.

Twenty-five thousand bushels of certified seed wheat were sealed and tagged during the 1935-36 season, while a further 10,000 bushels of seed from certified crops was passed at grain inspection, but not submitted for machine-dressing. The rapid dissemination of seed of the Cross 7 variety which has taken place in the last two seasons is very striking and emphasizes the value of seed certification in the speedy distribution of superior stocks of a new variety. In 1933-34 one small area of Cross 7 was under certification while in 1934-35 the number had increased to six crops. In 1935-36 season 105 crops, comprising 1,600 acres, were entered. Approximately half this area was accepted for certification, and 10,000 bushels of machine-dressed seed were sealed and tagged in this the third season during which seed of this variety has been available commercially.

## SEED POTATOES.

Entries into potato certification have continued to increase, 686 crops having been inspected in the 1935-36 season, as compared with 513 crops in the 1934-35 season. The percentage of crops to reach certification standard (89.7 per cent.) is the highest on record, having increased from 56.4 per cent. in the 1932-33 season. Over 2,800 tons of potatoes, the produce of certified crops, were inspected after grading and accepted as finally certified seed.

Figures recently published in the *Monthly Abstract of Statistics* indicate that throughout the whole of New Zealand the yield from certified seed during 1936 was  $1\frac{1}{2}$  tons per acre (25 per cent.) higher than where uncertified seed had been planted. This independent estimate, based on figures returned to the Statistician by farmers themselves, indicates the true worth of certified seed potatoes.

## BRASSICA CROPS.

Four areas of rape, two each of Giant and Broad Leaf Essex type, were sown out in 1935 with seed raised at the Plant Research Station. These areas, comprising 31 acres, were harvested in the 1935-36 season, the produce, amounting to 24,500 lb., being accepted as certified seed. This is the first time that rape-seed has been available to farmers in New Zealand with any reliable assurance as to the type of rape which is being