

is now entered for certification, approximately two-thirds of this quantity being accepted as certified seed.

Browntop

An exceptionally good browntop harvest has resulted in the recognition as certified of more than 600,000lb. of seed, as compared with the previous highest season's production of 385,000lb. An increased area entered for certification has been a further factor in this phenomenal increase.

Red Clover

Consequent upon a very favourable harvest season for Montgomery red clover, production of certified seed has risen from 45,000lb. to 144,000lb. This increase has been followed by a welcome reduction in price. Yields of this seed have averaged out at 151lb. per acre.

The 1938-39 season has seen the introduction of a certification scheme to cover broad red clover also. A nucleus of 80 acres produced 16,168lb. of seed, which was certified as "N.Z.-grown Broad Red Clover."

Indications are that a rapid development in the certification of this type of seed can be expected.

Italian Ryegrass

Due largely to lower yields, the quantity of Italian ryegrass seed certified is less than in either of the two preceding seasons. This is unfortunate in view of the undoubted merit of this strain of seed, and of the generally inferior nature of much of the uncertified seed. An increase in the production of certified seed would be very welcome to all farmers who know the value of really good Italian ryegrass as a temporary pasture.

Phalaris Tuberosa

More than 100 acres of *phalaris tuberosa* were harvested for seed during the 1938-39 season, and with a more consistent yield than has been experienced in previous seasons, the total certified product amounted to more than 12,000lb. Germination of this seed has been rather unsatisfactory, although it is understood that this fault is not uncommon in seed harvested overseas.

Subterranean Clover

In order to give an assurance as to the type of locally-produced subterranean clover seed, a scheme of certification has been introduced. Nearly

five tons of seed were obtained from the 70 acres harvested, all this seed being of the mid-season (Mt. Barker) strain.

Seed Wheat

The acreage of seed wheat accepted for certification in the 1938-39 season showed a slight increase over that certified in the previous season. A higher proportion than usual of the threshed grain was sealed and tagged after machine dressing, almost 60,000 bushels of seed being so treated. Nearly 40 per cent. of this quantity was of the Cross 7 variety, while the varieties Solid Straw Tuscan and Hunters II. each represented approximately 20 per cent. of the total certified.

Seed Potatoes

Although a reduction was recorded in the number of potato crops inspected, the acreage involved in the 1938-39 season was the highest on record. Similarly, the acreage accepted—3,284 acres—was also greater than in any previous season. Because of the general shortage of potato supplies during the season, much of the crop normally re-

served for seed purposes was diverted to domestic use. As a result, a considerable reduction was recorded in the quantities of tubers finally tagged after grading.

No material alteration is shown in the relative importance of the varieties under certification. The five main varieties, Aucklander Short Top, Dakota, Arran Chief, Inverness Favourite, and King Edward, together account for 90 per cent. of the area inspected.

Brassica Crops

It has still been impossible, because of adverse seasonal conditions, to produce sufficient supplies of certified rape seed. Low yields averaging 3cwt. per acre were experienced from the 60 acres harvested, and there was finally sealed 275cwt. of the Broad Leaf Essex type and 350cwt. of the Giant type.

General

The accompanying table gives the quantities of the various seeds certified each season since 1931-32. It should be noted that this table includes only seed in a machine-dressed or graded condition, and does not include seed

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