



Because of the similarity in size, timothy and white clover seeds are very difficult to separate, and should therefore not be harvested together.

is of serious consequence in only a few districts. Comparatively little can be done to counteract this plant when it has become thoroughly established. It increases fairly rapidly, but, being a short-lived perennial, it cannot be controlled as effectively as annuals, such as burr clover or goosegrass. On country where black medick is liable to be a serious competitor seed production might well be confined solely to young pastures, in order that the seed may be harvested before the black medick has a chance to become thoroughly aggressive.

It should be emphasised that in sowing down pastures for perennial ryegrass seed production it is essential that Italian ryegrass should not be included in the seeds mixture. If a mixture of these two were sown and the paddock and its progeny harvested over several generations the product would be a mixture of the two species, together with a large amount of hybrid seeds possessing few desirable qualities. Another point to be watched in the production of perennial ryegrass seed is that hay containing ripe Italian ryegrass is not fed out on proposed seed-producing areas. This practice has on several occasions been responsible for the rejection of seed-producing areas for seed certification.

Italian Ryegrass.

Although Italian ryegrass seed is superficially very similar to that of perennial ryegrass—the main differ-

ence being the presence of an awn on the former—the more serious impurities are somewhat different. Firstly, Italian ryegrass does not, as a rule, contain many impurities, as it is by force of circumstances harvested from young pastures only.

Secondly, most farmers realise that in order to obtain a good price for

the seed very light threshing is necessary so that the awn is not broken off. On this account, goosegrass is seldom damaged badly, and may be separated fairly easily. Damaged goosegrass is just as difficult to remove from Italian ryegrass as it is from perennial ryegrass, but its presence is not common.

Probably the most disconcerting impurity in Italian ryegrass seed is unshelled white clover. This is of no moment in perennial ryegrass seed, as the seed cleaner merely runs the line of seed through the brushes, thus effectively shelling the clover and enabling a separation by blast and riddle to be made. With Italian ryegrass this brushing is not possible, as by doing so the awn—which indicates that it is Italian ryegrass—is broken off.

It is, however, only on the heaviest country that white clover is liable to grow to such an extent that it is harvested in any quantity in first-year Italian ryegrass. In the event of white clover being present in large quantities in an Italian ryegrass seed crop, the binder should be raised sufficiently high to miss as much of the clover as possible.

Cocksfoot.

The cleaning of cocksfoot seed gives, on the whole, more headaches to the seed cleaners than any other seed. The seed of cocksfoot varies very much in weight, inert matter, double heads,

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