

## Test Your Seeds Before Planting.

**Dead Seeds or Adulterations a Serious Matter—Tests are Easily Made.**

The planting of dead seeds to occupy the soil to the exclusion of a valuable plant is a serious matter. The testing of seeds is a small matter.

If the crop is worth raising, if it is worth while to know before we plant our seed whether that seed is alive, just how much of it will come up, and also how much of it is really the seed of the crop we think we are planting.

Let the small farmer take a lesson from the business man, and first know what he is buying; second, after buying it test it to make sure that the goods specified have been delivered.

### Practice of a Very Rich Man.

I know of one man so wealthy that his name has become almost synonymous with money, who is running a farm on business principles, and in purchasing seed takes care that he gets value received. Before ordering his supply of seeds he sends to various dealers and asks for samples. He then takes a portion of the sample, examines it for purity, and also tests it for vitality. If the seed seems pure and alive, he then purchases the seed with the understanding that it is to measure up to the standard of the sample. When the seed filling the order comes, it is again tested to see that this seed is of the same quality as the original sample. If a man of great wealth sees fit to put into practice such checks and controls as this to insure the purity and vitality of his seed, how much more is it necessary for the small farmer to guard carefully these points?

### Beware of Adulterations.

Impurity of seed is a very common matter, either intentionally or through carelessness of the seedmen. There are numerous instances where the number of weed seed in a pound of clover seed ranges from 20,000 to 200,000. There are numerous instances in North Carolina where seeds purporting to be oats contain more than 50 per cent of some other kinds of seeds. Grass seed are woefully adulterated, and so all along the line. Few seeds indeed are exempt from impurity of one kind or another.

Each farmer should learn to know the seeds of his crop and the seeds of the various weeds, and should examine each purchase to be sure that no weed seeds are among the seeds of his crop.

And as nearly important as weed seeds is the question of dead seeds. Through avarice some unscrupulous seedsmen seek to become free of old poor seed, and mix these old seeds with new ones, thus lowering the average germinating power of the seed as a whole.

### Simple Method of Testing Seeds.

For this reason it is well to test samples of seed before planting them to ascertain what proportion will "come up." This test may be readily made by placing a few of the seeds, say one hundred, in a plate or cigar box containing some moist sand or soil. Place the seeds on the top of the sand and then you can more readily detect their germination and get the results of the test sooner. Place this germinator where it will be warm and see that it does not dry out, and when your seeds have done germinating, determine what number of them have done so, and you can thus obtain the percentage of viability. Do not look for too high a standard. You cannot expect 100 per cent in any case.

The results obtained in germination tests in the State of Connecticut,

1902, all seed being one year old, were as follows:

Beans, 86 per cent; beets, 128 per cent; cabbage, 82 per cent; carrots, 61 per cent; cauliflower, 77 per cent; celery, 53 per cent; cucumbers, 86 per cent; egg plant, 58 per cent; lettuce, 64 per cent; musk-melon, 77 per cent; onion, 76 per cent; parsley, 67 per cent; parsnip, 48 per cent; peas, 45 per cent; pepper, 76 per cent; pumpkin, 74 per cent; radish, 88 per cent; salsify, 67 per cent; spinach, 82 per cent; squash, 87 per cent; sunflower, 97 per cent; tomato, 85 per cent; turnips, 95 per cent; watermelon, 82 per cent.

To show the effect of age upon the vitality of seed, the following table from the same source is reproduced:

Seed stated to be less than one year old, 76 per cent.

Seed stated to be between one and two years old, 63 per cent.

Seed stated to be between two and three years old, 21 per cent.

Seed stated to be between three and four years old, 59 per cent.

F. L. STEVENS,  
A. & M. College, Raleigh, N. C.

### Peas Wanted.

Kindly advise us if you can put us in touch of any parties from whom we could get cowpeas.

Thanking you in advance for your prompt reply, we remain,

L. O. MOSELEY,  
Kinston, N. C.

Governor-elect Hoke Smith, of Georgia, in a recent address to young men, made announcement as follows of his life-purpose for the future: "I expect to spend the rest of my life in studying the problems which concern the State and South, and in writing and talking about them. When I ran for Governor last year I decided definitely to give up working for money and to devote the remainder of my life to working out these problems for Georgia and the South."

### The 1907 Girl Yours for the Asking

Have you made her acquaintance? Now is your only chance. After much trouble and expense, The Sharples Separator Co., of West Chester, Pa., have succeeded beyond their hopes in reproducing from life in the softest and daintiest colors, the sweetest dairy maid that ever graced a cream separator calendar or was ever offered by any cream separator company as a free picture suitable for framing. This calendar and this free picture are like the Sharples Tubular Cream Separator—you can't appreciate either of them until you see them. Worthy a place in every home. The Sharples Separator Company will send the calendar with this picture on it to you, free, for the names of two neighbors who keep cows but have no Tubular Cream Separator. Or they will send free the same picture, made larger for framing and without the calendar pad attached, for the names of five neighbors who keep cows but have no Tubular Cream Separator. Calendar and picture both sent free for names of seven neighbors who keep cows but have no Tubular. Write at once before the supply is gone, sending two names for the calendar with smaller picture on it, or five for the large picture without calendar pad attached, or seven for both. You must mention the name of this paper to get them. Address: The Sharples Separator Co., West Chester, Pa., Chicago, Ill., Toronto, Canada.

## WHO IS RIGHT ABOUT THE BEST CREAM SEPARATOR?

Every cream separator manufacturer, old and new alike, claims that his separator is better than any other. WHO IS RIGHT? Who can honestly make such a claim? We will leave the answer to you but wish to submit a few facts for your consideration. The DE LAVAL machine was the original separator and it has been manufactured for twenty-eight years, twice as long as any other machine. The world's best inventors and mechanics have been constantly working and trying to better it and thousands of dollars have been spent annually in this effort. The DE LAVAL has for many years been thoroughly tested, tried and used in every civilized country in the world and under every conceivable condition. Over 800,000 have been sold to date, several times all other makes combined. From these tests and experiences the DE LAVAL experts have learned what a cream separator must be to be called BEST. The DE LAVAL machine of to-day represents this knowledge. Every feature of its construction is the result of years of study and practical experience and the expenditure of vast sums of money. Nothing has been left undone that would help to make and keep the DE LAVAL the BEST of all separators. No separator built to-day contains any feature whatever, not used in the DE LAVAL, which has not at some time or other been tried out by the DE LAVAL experts and cast aside for something better in the present DE LAVAL construction. Consider these facts well, consult every experienced separator user you can, learn all that is possible about cream separators and tell us WHO you think is RIGHT. Meanwhile send for a DE LAVAL catalog of separator facts and reasons, to be had for the asking.

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