EXPERIMENTS IN GROWING ALFALFA FROM SEED SECURED FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES.

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In the spring of 1904 two strains of alfalfa, Turkestan and Utah, were obtained from the Department of Agriculture, Regina, Sask., and one strain, common, from Steele, Briggs Seed Co., Toronto. All were sown on May 30, and made a strong growth during that season. The mower was run over the plots (one-half acre) twice to check weeds and strengthen the roots. All came through the winter and spring of 1904-05, and were cut for hay on July 15 and September 5, giving total yields as follows: Turkestan, 8,840 lbs.; Utah, 8,080 lbs.; common, 7,122 lbs.

In the spring of 1906 Utah alfalfa was found to be completely killed. Turkestan and common were considerably injured, and the first cutting was light in both sorts. They were cut July 11 and September 7, and yielded as follows: Turkestan, 4,260 lbs.; common, 2,666 lbs.

In 1907 both plots were cut for hay on July 22, giving a yield of Turkestan, 3,363 lbs., and common, 2,740 lbs. No second cutting was made, as the crop had been injured by the spring thawing and freezing, and in hopes of strengthening the roots the second growth was left for protection.

In 1908 two cuttings were made, on July 4 and August 6, Turkestan giving a total of 6,479 lbs. and common 6,660 lbs. per acre.

In 1909 the cuttings were made on July 3 and August 18. In the first cutting Turkestan yielded 3,270 lbs. of dry hay, and common 2,980 lbs. The second cutting of both strains was put green into the silo.

In 1905 the Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C., sent nine strains of alfalfa for testing. These were Utah, Southern Montana, commercial seed, Minnesota (Grimm), Peru, New York, Samarkand (Turkestan), Nebraska, and Northern Montana.

These were sown on May 18, on one-half- or one-fourth-acre plots, the land having been fallowed the previous spring. The mower was run over the plots twice, the clippings being left for winter protection. Late in the fall cattle were pastured on the plots for a few days, as the growth was excessive.

Results obtained from the various strains since seeding:
Utah, Southern Montana, commercial seed, Peru, and Northern Montana were found to be entirely killed in the spring of 1906.