SCARIFICATION AS IT AFFECTS LONGEVITY OF ALFALFA SEED.¹

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The value of scarification for the elimination of hard seeds in alfalfa and clovers has met with a wide-spread appreciation. The Ames Hulling and Scarifying machine is being used on a commercial basis in the seed industry. Evidence of its value is abundant and striking. The immediate germination of commercial lots of alfalfa seed containing 25 percent hard seeds has frequently been found to increase from 70 percent to 90 percent or better, following scarification. With sweet clover, which often contains a higher percentage of hard seeds, the results have been even more pronounced, as Table 1 indicates. Furthermore, there appears to

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