TESTS OF STRAINS OF RED CLOVER FROM VARIOUS SOURCES
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INTRODUCTORY

This is a progress report of a test of red clover strains from various parts of the world where red clover is grown for seed purposes. The tests were undertaken as a cooperative experiment between the Office of Forage Crops Investigations, United States Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Agronomy of the Wisconsin Experiment Station.

Clover seed for the experiments and small sums for labor bills in certain years were supplied by the Bureau. Most of the labor and land for the tests were furnished by the state at the branch experiment stations.

General plans were arranged between Dr. A. J. Pieters, representing the Department of Agriculture, and the writer, who represents the Department of Agronomy, Wisconsin Experiment Stations, and who also had immediate charge of the tests.

PURPOSE OF RED CLOVER INVESTIGATIONS

The purpose of this investigation was to determine whether or not clover seed of foreign origin is suitable for the rigorous climatic conditions that obtain in such regions as Wisconsin. The immediate incentive was the fact that immediately after the close of the world war, and for several years thereafter, large quantities of red clover seed were shipped to the United States and put on our markets at prices considerably lower than domestic seed sold for at the time. Similar tests were undertaken and are now in progress in practically all the northern states where red clover is grown for hay, seed, and pasture.

IMPORTATIONS OF RED CLOVER SEED INTO THE UNITED STATES

Table 1 gives the quantities of red clover seed imported from 1919 to 1925, inclusive. It will be noted that when such large quantities of seed of such an important crop as red clover are sown, it is essential that such seed be suited to our conditions. Red clover is a valuable crop in itself for furnishing forage and pasture. Besides, the crop has a most important influence on the yields of crops that grow with it in rotation, since it helps in maintaining a proper supply of nitrogen on the farms where it is grown.

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