TESTS OF NATIVE AND FOREIGN CLOVER STRAINS IN WEST VIRGINIA

T. E. Odland and R. J. Garber

This paper is a report of the results of tests of clover strains from various sources, started at the West Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station in the spring of 1925, since work done at other places had indicated the need for information on the comparative value of the different strains for West Virginia conditions. The test plots were located on the agronomy farm at Morgantown, and results from these were supplemented by tests made on farms in several counties in different sections of the state. The results of the county tests were similar to those obtained at Morgantown. The writers wish to acknowledge their indebtedness to Dr. A. J. Pieters of the Office of Forage Crops Investigations who kindly furnished the seed.

Arny in a recent paper in this Journal has reviewed the results of tests with medium red clover conducted in a number of states. Seed of Italian origin has been found to be of little value wherever it has been used. Tests in a number of north central states indicate that French and Chilean strains are little better than Italian for those sections. Noll found that for the conditions obtaining at the Pennsylvania Station, seed of French origin compared favorably with native-grown seed. However, Wolfe and Kipps at the Virginia Station found that seed from France was not satisfactory.

West Virginia is located in the general section of the country where anthracnose is prevalent. Although the winters at Morgantown are not as severe as at some stations where red clover strain tests have been made, the alternate freezing and thawing during the winter causes much damage through heaving, to which the clay loam soil of this region is especially subject. Since the soil is low in organic matter and usually acid, red clover probably has as many disadvantages to cope with in this region as in almost any other section of the country.

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2Associate Agronomist and Agronomist, respectively.