OCCURRENCE OF "LINTLESS" COTTON PLANTS AND THE INHERITANCE OF THE CHARACTER "LINTLESS"

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INTRODUCTION

Occasionally cotton plants are found which have smooth seeds and practically no lint. Cotton growers do not harvest seed from these plants since they consider them degenerates and their presence an indication of "running out" of the seed. The "lintless" plants appear in varieties possessing normally linted and fuzzy seeds. There is some variation in the lintless plants in the amount of lint developed even on one plant. The later bolls tend to have more lint than the early bolls, but none have more lint than just enough to hold the seeds together when extracted from the boll. Since the smooth condition of the seed has been found by a number of workers³ to behave as a dominant or partially dominant character, the appearance of these plants was thought to be of some interest from the standpoint of heredity. Particularly since mutations from recessiveness to dominance are less frequent than changes in the opposite direction. Accordingly, a few seeds were obtained of lintless plants in the fall of 1925 and plants were grown in 1926, all of which came from seeds without lint or fuzz. A few crosses were made with a red-center King strain having normally linted and fuzzy seeds.

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