THE EFFECT OF SOIL TYPES AND FERTILIZERS ON
YIELD AND QUALITY OF FIBER FLAX

B. B. Robinson and R. L. Cook

Many investigations have been conducted on the effect of fertilizers on the growth and development of the flax plant. Most of them have been in Europe, where the soil types and environmental conditions are not similar to those in the United States. To the Germans and Russians must be credited most of the work along this particular line, but valuable additions have been made from other sources, especially Ireland. Unfortunately, the Russian work has been somewhat inaccessible, due to the articles appearing in periodicals which are not found in most libraries and to the difficulties with the language encountered by most workers. The foreign experiments form the foundation for work in this country and help very much in the proper interpretation of the results presented in this article.

At one time it was believed that flax was very hard upon the soil; that is, that when flax was grown, it rapidly depleted the soil of its plant food elements. This belief was proved to be incorrect by several investigators, including Ince (7), who showed that flax takes no more plant food from a soft than many of the common farm crops. This idea was probably most prevalent in America where it was noticed that in some instances when flax was planted on the same field two years in succession the second crop was inferior. Now it is

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2Assistant Plant Breeder and Research Assistant in Soils, respectively. J. D. Romaine and G. R. Schubatis, formerly of the Soils Department, and G. M. Grantham and A. G. Weidemann; Soils Department, aided in performing some of the field work.

Reference by number is to "Literature Cited," p. 509.