Alway (1) cites 17 references in a paper in which he discusses the early history of reed canary grass (Phalaris arundinacea L.). He states that the first mention of the grass as a forage plant appears to have been made in Sweden in 1749.

Piper (8) states that the grass is a native of the temperate regions of Europe, Asia, and North America and that it grows naturally in wet soils, especially river bottoms and lake shores subject to periods of inundation. Bews (5) says that it is a hygrophilous species very wide spread in both hemispheres. Hitchcock (6) states that it furnishes an excellent quality of wild hay, and that in the northern portion of the United States it is one of the most important constituents of marsh lands. Pammel, et al. (7), in 1901, stated that while the grass is native in low ground, it succeeds admirably under cultivation even in dry soils and resists drouth as well as any grass under cultivation.

The grass has been cultivated only to a limited extent in the United States, largely due to the fact that the seed shatters as it ripens making harvest more or less difficult and the seed costly. Schoth (9) and Arny, et al. (3, 4) give recommendations for culture and use of the grass for the Pacific Northwest and for Minnesota sections, respectively; and Alway and Nesom (2) and Arny, et al. (4) give analyses for protein content of the grass at different stages of development.

STRAIN COMPARISONS

Piper (8) has called attention to the fact that the grass is decidedly variable and that about 10 strains were grown for several years at Arlington Farm, Virginia. Schoth, of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, working at the Oregon Experiment Station, has made segregations, one of which shatters its seed appreciably less than the ordinary strain.

Selection studies at the Iowa Experiment Station were begun with the progeny from a packet of seed received by the station from an Iowa farmer in 1918.

1Contribution from the Farm Crops Sub-section, Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, Ames, Iowa. Published with the approval of the Director. Received for publication May 16, 1931.

2Assistant Chief in Forage Crops and Chief in Farm Crops, respectively.

3Reference by number is to "Literature Cited." p. 28.