It is well known in ecology that because of the competition among plants for light, moisture, and nutrients, individuals which are in more favorable situations may grow more rapidly than less favored plants. It is a fairly common practice in experimental work with field crops to discard border rows and ends of plats at harvest, in order to guard against results arising from inequalities in competition. The "competition effect" may be almost negligible when adjacent plats are occupied by varieties or treatments characterized by similar growth habit and may be very great when such varieties or treatments are characterized by great dissimilarity of growth habit. The committee on Standardization of Field Experiments of the American Society of Agronomy, recognizing the danger of introducing serious errors into the results of field experiments by inequalities in competition between adjacent plats, recommended that one row be discarded from each side of a plat for intertilled crops when harvest records were taken. By this precaution a source of error is removed which, in most cases, cannot be determined accurately.

Immer has shown that unbalanced competition between sugar beet brands differing in growth habit is such as to make results obtained