GRASSLAND SEEDS


This pioneering book on "Grassland Seeds" will serve as a source of valuable information for seed growers, seedsmen, plant breeders, research and extension agronomists, crop improvement personnel, seed control officials, teachers and students. Designed primarily as a handbook or reference, it covers a wide range of subject matter relating to grassland seeds. This is the first attempt to put this area of information in one book. Study of the contents of Grassland Seeds will lead to a broader and more complete understanding of small seeded legume and grass seed in its many aspects.

The book is divided into two parts. Subject matter in Part I ranges, in part, all the way from seed information, germination and testing of seeds to seed production, processing, certification and marketing of seeds, estimating of field seed crops—concluding with a brief description of the field seed industry. Part II deals specifically with the many major and minor grassland crops in relation to the relative importance of each as a component of grasslands, management for seed production, seed harvesting and processing; and where improved varieties exist, there is a brief description of each.

There are a number of contributing authors. As is to be expected from the wide range of subject matter covered in the book and this type of authorship, the different chapters vary in their completeness and authenticity. There is evidence of some variance between authors in their knowledge and understanding of the significant aspects of the subject each was treating. A number of chapters are a concise, outstanding contribution to the several facets of grassland seeds. The authors are to be congratulated for their courage and effectiveness in assembling this badly needed information on grassland seeds where, due to the nature of the subject, the borderline between fact and opinion is sometimes hard to differentiate.

Considering the recent important developments in forage crop improvement by means of accelerated plant breeding, this book is made available at a very auspicious time. It clearly demonstrates that effectuation of a program whereby improved grassland seeds share fully in contributing to better grasslands and an even more efficient agriculture there is required the closest teamwork and understanding of all agencies and groups that are concerned with seeds.—A. A. JOHNSON, Professor Plant Breeding, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

PLANT PROTECTION CONFERENCE 1956


This report of a world-wide conference on problems of plant protection is extremely valuable to all concerned. In general, the papers are authoritative, clear, and stimulating. The program titles indicate the fields discussed: World aspects of crop protection; Genetics in relation to crop protection; Mechanisms of toxicity; The role of systemics in crop production; Residual effects and user-hazards of crop-protection chemicals; Applying crop-protection chemicals.

The papers on Mechanisms of Toxicity and User-Hazards of Chemicals were particularly challenging. The book is especially valuable to give American workers a picture of world work and workers in this field, since only three speakers (two from United States, one from Canada) were from this side of the Atlantic.—C. J. WILLARD, Professor of Agronomy, Ohio State University.