

Lawn Care

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WORLD CONDITIONS DISTURB SEED MARKET

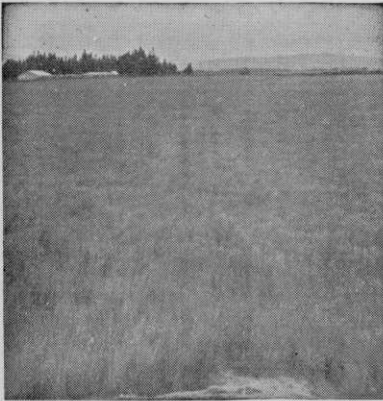
A QUESTION frequently put to us is this: "Where does all your seed come from? Is it grown in Ohio right around Marysville?" This is a perfectly natural query but the answer may be a surprise to many.

To get the various ingredients that go into Scotts Lawn Seed, it is necessary to call upon thousands of farmers for their production of hundreds of thousands of acres. Such production involves at least ten states and as many overseas countries. Some of the most important varieties are grown only in a

relatively small section so it is no wonder that authorities lift their eyebrows at reports of locally grown "adapted or acclimated seed brands."

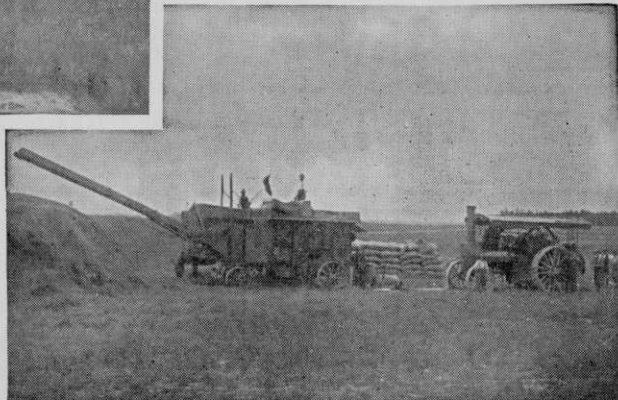
The seeds of lawn grasses are grown in those sections where climatic conditions are most favorable to production. This does not mean that such grasses are unadapted to the growing of turf in far removed sections, but simply that for the ripening of good plump weed-free seeds certain parts of the world offer specific advantages.

The gathering together of these seeds is not as simple as it may sound. The first step in the direction of good quality is in the careful selection of raw materials. Within a given producing area there may be sections that provide better growing conditions and also enjoy a greater freedom from weeds. The human element is also a factor, for as with other crops some farmers are more effi-



Here is a field of Chewings Fescue growing near Dunedin, New Zealand. It is ready to be cut for seed.

The picture opposite shows the same field being threshed and the seed bagged ready for the cleaner.



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cient as producers than others. The choice lots are brought to Marysville, where they are carefully re-cleaned and blended to produce better lawns.

Until the past year we looked to Europe for many of our most important grass varieties. One after another of these sources has been shut off, starting first with Czechoslovakia. Poland came next. A consignment of 15 tons of seed was on dock for us at Gydnia that fateful first of September last year. Since then all central European sources have been shut off.

Strange as it may seem, Denmark was one of the most important sources of grass seed. By extreme good fortune we got a large shipment of seed afloat before avenues of export were closed. There was a margin of only five days.

Far-off New Zealand and Australia are also important to us as producers of grass seed. The big handicap here is in transportation, since it takes about six weeks for steamers to make the trip. Add another week now for zig-zagging. During a large part of the trip the boats are in the torrid zone where cargoes are subjected to extremes of heat and humidity. This condition is harmful to seed germination so we use refrigerated compartments to keep our seed constantly cool and dry to insure our high standards of germination. Heavy ocean traffic of food products has made it difficult to get refrigerated space except at a substantial premium. All the while freight and insurance charges have soared.

Other foreign suppliers of seed include Scotland and Ireland. It is still possible to obtain stocks from there, but markets have worked much higher because of the additional risk and mounting transportation costs.

Poison Ivy Spreads On

A LAWN CARE topic which struck fire was the one on Poison Ivy. Our readers went for it with enthusiasm. Comments

are still being received. More reference has been made to immunizing the individual from Ivy Poison than to eradicating the plant in lawns. Here are a few recent remarks:

"The bulletin on Poison Ivy is a dandy. I firmly believe that 90% of the state of Minnesota must be covered with Poison Ivy and Wood-Ticks. I think Mother Nature must have had a severe headache the day she created these two."—Neil M. Averill, 518 Federal Building, St. Paul, Minn.

"It seems to me that no one thinks of the best and most simple way of getting rid of this plant Poison Ivy. No vegetation can survive a dose of plain gasoline. I got rid of all the Ivy on my place with one dose. No danger, no damage to the ground, and so cheap! The gasoline should be applied around the shoot that goes into the ground. That does away with the pest once and for all. Try it."—W. H. Chandler, 344 North Mountain Ave., Upper Montclair, N. J.

"The method of eating leaves to develop immunity to Poison Ivy is a very old one. In the practice of medicine years ago I made the extract myself and prescribed small doses to establish immunity and to cure Poison Ivy eruption. Today the same thing is done only the juice is commercially marketed and given by injections. Nothing new, only the forgotten brought to life."—Dr. B. A. Lungmus, 3101 North Green Bay Ave., Milwaukee, Wis.

"I have two neighbors who were susceptible to Ivy poisoning and who have immunized themselves by eating the small leaves of the plant in small amounts. These friends can now pull up the plant freely without injuring themselves. Rumor has it that the treatment was also tried in C. C. C. camps."—Mrs. Julian W. Hill, 1106 Greenhill Ave., Wilmington, Del.