

by elevator and seed dealers in this state. In addition individual growers have many hundreds of small machines of different types. In some cases these machines may be used for treating grass and legumes but the job is somewhat more difficult and will require special attention. For the most part the treating of grass and legume seeds is done by the seed dealer.

Alfalfa often contains hard seeds which appear to be of good quality but because of the hardness will not germinate readily. Often these seeds germinate much better when treated. Some of the grass seeds have been scarce and all seeds of grass, alfalfa, and sweet clover have been high priced during the last several years. If treating the seed will improve the stand by 10 to 50 per cent it seems a good practice and one that will pay dividends on the cost. Treating is inexpensive in comparison with the high cost of seed, and is a practice which should be encouraged.

HYBRID CORN ACREAGE

A total of 702,000 acres, or 53.5 per cent of the entire corn acreage in North Dakota, was planted with hybrid seed in 1950. This compares with 650,000 acres or 52.5 per cent of the 1949 acreage planted with hybrids. The use of hybrid seed has increased each year since its introduction more than a decade ago, but the rate of increase the past five years was slower than from 1940 to 1945.

Hybrid seed corn in North Dakota is planted most extensively in the southeastern part of the state where most of the grain corn is grown, and where nearly 80 per cent of the 1950 acreage was planted with hybrids. Richland county is North Dakota's leading corn county and the only county where corn is as important as wheat. In 1949, most recent year for which county acreage is available, Richland county had 134,000 acres of corn, 129,000 acres of wheat.

For the United States as a whole, 65 million acres of corn, or 77.1 per cent of the 1950 acreage, was planted with hybrid seed in 1950—from report of the Office of Agricultural Statistician, USDA Bureau of Agricultural Economics, C. J. Heltemes, Agricultural Statistician in Charge, Fargo, N. D.

GRASS SEED PRODUCTION UP IN 1950

Production of range and pasture grass seeds in North Dakota in 1950 was considerably larger than in 1949, reports C. J. Heltemes, federal agricultural statistician at Fargo. Combined production of the six principal grass seeds grown in the state is estimated at 3,207,000 pounds (clean seed basis) compared with 1,228,000 pounds in 1949.

Most important is smooth bromegrass—2,500,000 pounds in 1950 compared with 990,000 pounds in 1949. Crested wheatgrass at 480,000 pounds in 1950 was more than three times the 140,000 pounds for the previous year. Slender wheatgrass seed yield was 120,000 pounds up from 32,000 in 1949; Canada wildrye—44,000, an increase over 36,000 in 1949; and Russian wildrye—30,000 pounds in 1950, the same amount as reported for the previous year. Western wheatgrass seed is estimated at 33,000 pounds with no reported production for the previous year.

Grass seed production for these six varieties utilized exactly 19,250,000 acres in 1950 compared to 11,600,000 acres in 1949.