

port on this phase cannot yet be made but, as at the beginning of the experiment, we see no evidence that the plant is likely to increase as a field weed or to persist under average conditions.

SUMMARY

Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) was grown in a field plot at Fargo for six years. It was readily established from seed. Growth was heaviest the third year after planting, after which it declined markedly. Dry weather seemed partly responsible, especially in a second plot where the milkweed rows were separated by grass buffer strips.

Pod production was relatively uniform throughout the period, averaging from three to four per stalk for different lots. The flowers do not fruit unless cross-pollinated. This is accomplished in nature largely by flies and bees. Artificial pollination is difficult but can be done. Flowering occurs from about June 25 to July 15 and seeds are not shed until the first frost or shortly before it.

Well established plots show considerable persistence to tillage, and seeds start freely in undisturbed ground, but the plant seems not to be considered an aggressive weed.

Because Bankhead-Jones—Section 5, federal grant funds are allocated to states on the ratio of their rural population to the total rural population, the 1951-52 allocation to the North Dakota Station has been reduced for the fiscal year 1951-52 by \$1,491.52. For the same reasons the allocations under sections 9b-1 and 9b-2 of the same act have been reduced by \$692.48, making a total loss of Bankhead-Jones funds of \$2,184.00—(H.L.W.).

HORSES IN THE UNITED STATES

The horse population of the United States shows a steady decline according to figures recently released by the USDA. Expressed in thousands of head the numbers on June 1 each year were as follows: 1951-4,763; 1950-5,274; 1949-5,898; 1948-6,589. The average for the period 1934-38 was 11,570.