

## CERTIFIED SEED POTATOES IN THE UNITED STATES

On the largest acreage ever harvested, the 1944 production of certified seed potatoes, indicated at 32,339,991 bushels, was 11 percent larger than the previous record crop of 29,070,831 bushels in 1943, and nearly 2-1/3 times the 10-year (1933-42) average production of 13,976,101 bushels. About one out of every 12 bushels of potatoes produced in the U.S. in 1944 was certified for seed, while the average number certified during the 10 years 1933-42 was only one out of every 26 bushels.

Production of War-approved seed potatoes, indicated at 4,570,-290 bushels, was only 36 percent as large as that of 1943, the year this grade was established. Although only 3 States produced more War-approved seed than in 1943, 17 out of the 27 States produced more certified seed in 1944 than in 1943. Because of the sharp decrease in production of War-approved seed, the total production of certified and War-approved seed potatoes in 1944 fell 12 percent below that of 1943.

Ten varieties accounted for 95 percent of the total production of certified seed in 1944 and 1943. Cobbler 25.35 percent in 1944 and 26.86 percent in 1943, Triumph 17.15 and 19.48, Katahdin 13.70 and 16.10, Green Mountain 13.18 and 10.75, Chippewa 5.65 and 4.31, Sebago 5.57 and 5.56, Russet Burbank 5.51 and 5.11, White Rose 4.75 and 3.85, Red McClure 2.17 and 1.13, and Russet Rural 1.64 and 1.68. As will be noted from the foregoing percentages, the first four varieties maintained the same order of importance in 1944 as in 1943. Fifth place in 1944, however, went to Chippewa instead of Sebago.

(News Release, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, January 9, 1945)

**"BUFFALO GRASS, (*Buchloe dactyloides*) (Nutt.) Engelm.**, is a low-growing, long-lived, drought-resistant perennial grass which spreads vegetatively by numerous surface runners." So says L. E. Wenger, Forage Crops Specialist, Fort Hays Branch Experiment Station, and Agent, United States Department of Agriculture, in his 78 page bulletin on "Buffalo Grass," published in December, 1943 as Bulletin 321 of the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station, Manhattan, Kansas.

Buffalo grass was briefly described by Warren Whitman and O. A. Stevens of the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station in the section on Native Grasses of North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 300, "Grass," on pages 39-41, June, 1941.

It is listed on page 105 of O. A. Stevens' Catalog of North Dakota Grasses in Bulletin 300, an improved strain, No. 05-383, was described by George A. Rogler in Bulletin 300, and a method of processing its seed was described by G. L. Weber on pages 79-80 of Bulletin 300.

T. H. Hopper and L. L. Nesbitt in North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 236 (1930) reported the chemical composition of a sample of Buffalo grass harvested on July 28, when it was in full bloom, as follows: Moisture, 15.00 percent; Ash, 8.87 percent; Crude Protein, 9.99 percent; Ether Extract, 2.01 percent; Crude Fiber, 22.86 percent; and Nitrogen-Free Extract, 41.27 percent. These figures were very similar to compositions reported by Griffitho, Bidwell, and Godrich in U. S. Department of Agriculture Bulletin 201 (Professional paper) in 1915. The name "Buffalo grass" is frequently wrongly applied to the Blue Grama grass, a species much more common than true Buffalo grass in the "short grass" region of North Dakota. (H.L.W.)