DAKOTA—A NEW FLAX

By
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The North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station announces the release of a new variety of flax, called Dakota. This new flax is from a cross between Renew, a rust resistant parent, and Bison, made by A. C. Dillman at the Northern Great Plains Field Station, Mandan, in 1938. It is highly resistant to wilt, has the rust reaction of the Renew parent and is resistant to all strains of rust known to occur in this area. In its reaction to pasmo, Dakota appears to resemble Bison, being less susceptible than most of the other rust resistant varieties. In our trials to date Dakota has not been seriously damaged by pasmo, but like Bison may show considerable infection under conditions very favorable for the development of the disease. (No variety now available is really resistant to pasmo, they differing only in degree of susceptibility).

Dakota ripens about the same time or slightly earlier than Bison, grows about as tall, has blue flowers and brown, slightly smaller seed. In oil content Dakota has averaged about one percent lower than Bison, but in iodine number (index of drying quality) the oil is rated distinctly superior to Bison. This flax has good plant type and in tests to date has yielded satisfactorily over a wide range of conditions. It is expected therefore, that it will be found suited to a relatively wide area.

Dakota flax is the product of cooperative research between the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils and Agr. Engineering, U. S. Department of Agriculture and the State Experiment Stations in the flax producing area. Its development and release is another forward step in meeting not only the wilt and rust problem but at the same time offering as much protection against the pasmo disease as is yet possible.

The initial distribution of Dakota flax was made to growers in the spring of 1946 when 980 bushels of seed were released under contract to 71 cooperating farmers in 30 counties. From this distribution about 12,000 bushels of seed will be available for sowing in 1947. The Experiment Station has an option on 75 percent of this increase, which option will be used to fill requests for seed from other farmers who may want some for 1947 sowing. Any one desiring to obtain some of this seed for sowing may inquire of his county agent or write to the Experiment Station, Department of Agronomy, stating the amount desired and, if possible, the grower he would prefer to buy his seed from. In so far as possible the order will be filled from the nearest satisfactory source. The 1947 crop will not be under contract as it is expected that after 1947 the supply of seed will be sufficiently large to take care of most urgent seed requirements.