

In the western two-thirds of North Dakota yellow flowered varieties are best adapted and can be expected to perform most satisfactorily. Madrid and Common Yellow are desired. However, Spanish or Common White are satisfactory and will provide a longer grazing season the second year due to their later maturity.

A breeding program is under way to develop better adapted, disease resistant and low-coumarin white flowered varieties. Development of low-coumarin yellow flowered lines are being sought by crossing yellow lines with low-coumarin white flowered selections in hopes of producing a truly sweet yellow sweetclover.

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Alfalfa seed production in North Dakota in 1955 was second highest amount on record, 3,525,000 pounds as compared to 2,520,000 pounds in 1954 and the record high of 4,600,000 pounds in 1949. Acreage harvested for seed was 75,000 in 1955, exceeded only by the 77,000 harvested in 1951. The 1954 acreage from which alfalfa seed was harvested was 60,000 and the 10-year average 49,100, according to C. J. Heltemes, USDA statistician in Fargo.

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"Our immediate task is to help farmers adjust their operations to the market. This must be done in a way that brings adequate returns for the farmer's labor and capital investments and at the same time builds up and conserves resources of soil and water."—Dr. Byron T. Shaw, Administrator, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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### 1955 CROP PRODUCTION VALUED AT \$477 MILLION

Total value of all crop production in North Dakota in 1955 is estimated by Agricultural Marketing Service statisticians at \$477 million, up from \$386 million in 1954. The record was \$700 million in 1947. The difference between the 1954 and 1955 crop value can be measured as almost exactly the comparative toll of 15B stem rust of wheat, which took a \$100 million chunk out of the 1954 North Dakota wheat crop.

North Dakota ranked first in the nation in 1955 in production of durum and other spring wheat, in barley, rye, flax and wild hay and was second for all wheat. The total of all harvested crop acres was 21,846,000 acres, largest on record and nearly a million acres over the 10-year average.

"Production of all wheat was the largest since 1951 in spite of the fact that the total area planted to wheat was the smallest since about 1908," reports C. J. Heltemes, agricultural statistician.

This 1955 wheat crop totaled 113,482,000 bushels, made up of 13,770,000 bushels of durum and 99,712,000 bushels of bread wheat. This is far above the 69,274,000 bushels of all wheat raised in the state in 1954, but below the 10-year average of 131,707,000 bushels. Yield per acre was 13.5 bushels for durum and 16 for hard wheat in 1955, with the all-wheat yield per acre highest in 10 years.

Perhaps reflecting the work of this station—and especially findings at the Dickinson Branch Station—corn raised for silage has jumped from 221,000 acres for the 10-year (1944-53) average to 473,000 acres in 1954 and 537,000 acres in 1955.

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### WINTER RYE REPORT

Rye acreage seeded in the fall of 1955 in North Dakota was 535,000 acres, reports the federal Agricultural Marketing Service in Fargo. This is 13 per cent below the 652,000 acres seeded in the fall of 1954, but more than twice the 10-year average.