

# New York Agricultural Experiment Station.

[Part of]

BULLETIN No. 416.

## SEED TESTS MADE AT THE STATION DURING 1915.

M. T. MUNN.

### SUMMARY.

Part I.— Of the 323 official samples of seed drawn from dealers' stocks by authorized representatives of the Commissioner of Agriculture 15, or 4.6 per ct., were found upon analysis to be violations of the seed law. The present seed law affords only a partial protection to the uninformed purchaser of seeds since it does not require a reasonable freedom from dodder or other noxious weed seeds, or from inert matter. Many of the lots of seed from which samples were drawn contained varying amounts of dodder seed or other weed seeds and because of the fact that they did not exceed the 3 per ct. limit of the seed law passed onto the market without labels to warn purchasers of the presence of seeds of these weed pests.

Part II.— The number of seed samples (777) received from correspondents for purity test is far below the number received during the previous year. This decrease in numbers is due to the cooperation with the seed laboratory of various organizations which made one person responsible for the purchase of a quantity of seed, and also to an apparent decrease in the number of small, worthless, free, advertising samples of seed furnished to prospective buyers.

Samples of orchard grass seed showed that in some cases these goods have been intentionally adulterated with chaff and inert matter, while the Dwarf Essex rape seed had been adulterated with the cheap bird rape seed and other varieties of rape, and various kinds of mustard seed.

Dodder was found in one sample of orchard grass seed into which it had been intentionally introduced along with inert matter of various kinds. Over 10 per ct. of the alfalfa seed samples contained dodder, in one instance to the extent of 2.5 per ct.

**NOTICE**

It has been deemed unnecessary and inadvisable to issue this bulletin in complete form for the entire mailing list of the Station. The analyses of the individual samples of seed are not usually representative of large quantities on the general market, and cannot guide buyers as definitely as do the analyses of fertilizers and feeding stuffs. The summary on the other side of this sheet shows the general condition of the markets with regard to seed purity during 1915, sufficient to aid purchasers in a general way. A larger number than usual of the full edition of the bulletin has been printed and copies will gladly be sent to those who request them.