

Seeds Must Bear Purity Tag

Harrisburg — Farmers and seedsmen were reminded today by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Plant Industry that all seed offered or exposed for sale must bear a test label.

"This label," explained Dr. Thomas L. Guyton, director of the State Agriculture Department agency, "tells farmers the varietal purity of the seed, the rate of germination, and weed seed content. This

is vital information since all these things relate directly to the amount of seed to be planted for a proper stand."

The Bureau of Plant Industry maintains the state seed testing laboratory where farmers can have seed tested for a fixed fee.

Dr. Guyton said that frequent violations of the seed labeling regulations are be-

ing found at country auctions. He said that seed offered for sale at an auction must be tested and tagged.

"Because of the presence of weeds in most Pennsylvania grain fields, farmers should have their home-grown seed cleaned and tested even though they do not intend to sell any," said Dr. Guyton. "Small grain fields in this state usually contain garlic, mustard and other weeds. In addition, there is no other good way to check seed for viability or its ability to germinate."

"I especially warn farmers to be on their guard against door-to-door seed salesmen who may offer seed of doubtful variety and purity. If the seed carries no test tag, do not buy it," he concluded.

COTTON CUSTOMERS

Men and boys are the largest customers of cotton. Last year more than a million and a half bales went into men's and boys' trousers and shirts, reports Thelma Baerl, Penn State extension clothing specialist.

Pa. Tobacco Seed To Many States

Harrisburg, Aug. 1—Certified Pennsylvania seedleaf tobacco seed was ordered by growers in Puerto Rico, Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio this year, the State Bureau of Plant Industry reports.

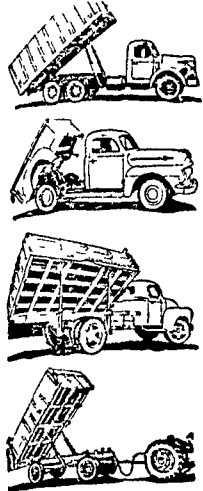
When grown in Pennsylvania, the tobacco is used as cigar filler. When grown in other localities, the tobacco leaf may be used for smoking or chewing tobacco. Soil and climate affect tobacco more than varietal characteristics.

Because of unfavorable weather this spring, Clinton County tobacco growers were forced in many cases to journey to Lancaster Co. for seedlings. Normally, a considerable acreage of Type 53 tobacco is grown in Clinton County, whereas most Lancaster County production is Type 41.

Seed certification for tobacco is quite different from other crops, the Bureau of Plant Industry notes. Individual tobacco plants are certified for seed production. This is because a single plant will produce up to a million seeds, enough to plant 166 acres.

Several standard varieties are now certified and it is anticipated that new varieties developed by the Southeastern Field Laboratory near Landsville in Lancaster County will be available through certified growers as they are released.

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