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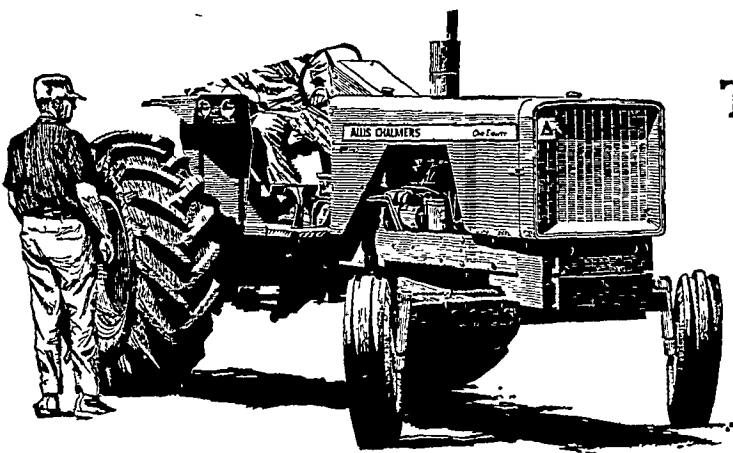
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If not effectively controlled, alfalfa weeds like chickweed (above) can reduce hay quality, cut yields, and shorten stand life.

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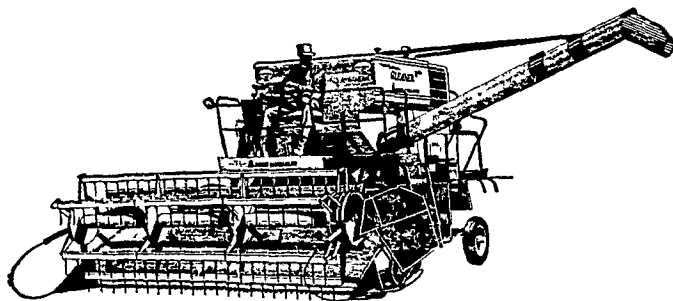
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(Continued on Page 24)

State Growers Should Stop Weeds In Alfalfa

This fall more farmers are taking a closer look at herbicides to control weeds in their alfalfa. What they do now can make a difference next spring.

According to crop experts, weed infestations were much heavier this year and indications are they are spreading. When this happens, hay quality is reduced, yields are cut, and life of the stand is considerably shortened.

Crop specialists point out that weeds in alfalfa tend to spread fast because of the high soil fertility needed to grow the

crop. Some of today's "problem" weeds — yellow rocket, white cockle, hoary alyssum, chickweed, henbit, kochia, downy birome, mustard, and cheatgrass — can take years off an alfalfa stand. While weeds are moving in they compete vigorously for soil nutrients and before you know it, they've overtaken the crop and it's necessary to re-plant or rotate.

But the danger doesn't stop there. While weeds won't reduce your total production of dry matter, crop experts point out that they will slash the amount of alfalfa you're harvesting. This means less pro-