



LIBRARIES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

How to secure seed grain. Bulletin no. 32 March 1916

Mortimer, G. B.

[s.l.]: [s.n.], March 1916

<https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/CT5X6SW7M7YKT8E>

Based on date of publication, this material is presumed to be in the public domain.

For information on re-use, see

<http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/Copyright>

The libraries provide public access to a wide range of material, including online exhibits, digitized collections, archival finding aids, our catalog, online articles, and a growing range of materials in many media.

When possible, we provide rights information in catalog records, finding aids, and other metadata that accompanies collections or items. However, it is always the user's obligation to evaluate copyright and rights issues in light of their own use.

WISCONSIN BANKERS' FARM BULLETIN

How to Secure Seed Grain

By

G. B. MORTIMER

College of Agriculture of the University of Wisconsin



LOOK FOR THIS LABEL

Wisconsin grown grains, true to type and of germination, are best suited to the needs of the state

File this bulletin where you can find it

Distributed by

Wisconsin Bankers' Association

W. A. von Berg,
Chairman Agricultural Committee,
Mosinee

George D. Bartlett,
Association Secretary,
Pabst Building, Milwaukee

How to Secure Seed Grains

Wisconsin Grown Seeds are the Best for Wisconsin.

The quality of seed grains determines to a large extent what the yields will be. Wisconsin has a climate that is exceedingly well adapted to seed production of the highest quality. Wisconsin has an enviable reputation as a seed producing state as the numerous calls for Wisconsin grown seed from all sections of the country indicate. It has taken years of breeding to develop the best varieties of grains and corn for certain localities, and

Quality in Seed Grains Means:—

- Well matured seeds.
- One hundred per cent pure.
- A bright, live color.
- Freedom from disease, insect and mechanical injury.
- A high weight per bushel.
- Freedom from dirt of all kinds.
- Freedom from weed seeds.
- Seeds well graded.
- Seeds not more than two years old.
- A sweet grain odor.
- A strong and high percentage of germination.

now that these have been shown to be superior to other varieties,—Wisconsin Grown Seed Grains and Corn—should be the motto. There is none better.

Improved Varieties of Wisconsin Grains.

Use the Wisconsin improved varieties. They are the best yielders. In years of competition with other varieties they have not only won out in yield but they excel as well in quality. They have been bred for Wisconsin conditions.

Turkey Red wheat is the leading hard winter wheat of the world. Pedigree No. 2 of this variety has been selected and bred for wheat growers of Wisconsin. It is a hardy, high yielding wheat of good quality. Those interested in spring wheats will do well to secure Marquis, one of the more recently introduced varieties. In yield and earliness it is superior to other spring wheats. It has excellent bread making qualities.

Wisconsin Pedigree Oderbrucker barley speaks for itself. It is known the world over. It has never yet suffered defeat at any of the great grain shows when placed in competition with other varieties. Being stiff strawed it does not readily lodge in the field. Its uniformity in maturing produces plump grain of the very best quality. Be sure to get the Improved Oderbrucker for the highest yielding barley.

There are improved varieties of oats to meet all oat growing conditions in the state. At present Wisconsin Wonder-Pedigree No. 1 holds the record for high yields, especially upon the heavier soils. Swedish Select, Pedigree No. 5 is another one of the best yielders and also does well on the heavy and medium soils. Sixty Day, Pedigree No. 6 is desirable for the sandier soils on account of its earliness.

Wisconsin is one of the three leading rye producing states. The improved pedigreed varieties of winter rye out-yield the common varieties by five to ten bushels an acre. Call for Wisconsin pedigree winter rye.

There is an improved variety of corn for every portion of the state. Silver King, Wisconsin No. 7 bred primarily for the southern half of the state is the great favorite, with the leading corn growers of that section. Golden Glow, Wisconsin No. 12, bred for central Wisconsin is the best dent corn to be had for this portion of the state. Earliness and high yielding qualities have created a large acreage for this variety. Early Yellow Dent, Wisconsin No. 8, is excellent for both central and north central Wisconsin. For the extreme northern portions, improved Smut Nosed Flint will give good results.

Use Locally Grown Seeds.

The best grains for seed purposes are those that are home grown—preferably on the farmer's own farm, providing proper attention has been given to the selection of them. These have developed a liking for his soil conditions and will do better than those imported from long distances. If you have the best improved stock of your varieties, stick to them.

Sometimes, however, it becomes necessary for various reasons to purchase seed. If this is the case, insist on securing Wisconsin grown seed. Secondly, get the seed just as near home as possible. Just a short telephone conversation or a personal visit to your neighbors will generally put you in touch with the fellow who has what is wanted. Buying locally grown seed permits a personal inspection of it. This factor alone may mean dollars and cents. Seeds obtained from long distances may add a new source of danger—the introduction of dangerous weeds.

The Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Association is one of the most efficient means at hand for securing information regarding seed grains. A letter or postal card to the secretary, R. A. Moore, Madison, will put you in touch with some of the very best grain and corn producers of the state. This association was created for the farmers of this state; make use of it when you are in the market for better seed grains. Many have found that it pays, so will you.

Should Seed Be Changed?

Raise your own seeds. Grains and corn do not "run out" if proper attention has been paid to seed selection. Seed should only be changed

when you are sure of getting something superior in the way of yield and quality to your old stock. When you are sure there is something better, then make the change even if the price asked seems a little high. But remember, the better the seed, the bigger the crop and the better its quality. It is easy to save the cent on the seed, but it is equally easy to lose the dollar on the crop.

Preparation of the Seed

It pays to attend to your seed grain early, before you find yourself in the midst of the rush of spring's work. When satisfied that you have the type desired, examine it closely as to its ability to grow a bumper crop. If in doubt as to its germinating strength, make a test by placing a number of kernels (preferably one hundred) between two moistened pieces of blotter or cloth and then setting away on a dinner plate or tin for about six days, care being taken to see that the seeds are kept moist, but not too wet. Unless the test shows a high and strong percentage of sprouting, the seed should be discarded for seed purposes.

Selected seed is fanned, screened, and graded. You can have selected seed for the small cost of running it carefully through the fanning mill. This removes the chaff, light seeds, dirt and weed seeds, and furnishes plump seeds free from weeds. Sometimes it is a good plan if the seed has become badly mixed to hand pick a couple of bushels. This then may be sown by itself and the seed from it carefully preserved for the next year's crop.

Keeping Grains Free From Mixture.

It is a simple matter to start out with pure seed grain, but it is not so easy to keep them pure and free from mixture. Here are some precautions that the careful fellow takes:

- (1) Cleaning of the drill or seeder before sowing a different variety.
- (2) Cleaning of all grain sacks before filling by turning inside out and thoroughly shaking.
- (3) Cleaning of fanning mill.
- (4) Discarding first few bushels for seed that come from the separator.
- (5) Feeding horses ground oats during seeding time.
- (6) Storing seed so as to be rat and mouse proof.
- (7) Thoroughly cleaning the grain binder before starting to cut a new variety.

Harvesting for Seed Purposes.

Often it is a good plan to take special pains at harvest time with a portion of the grain crop to be used for seed. Bad weather conditions sometimes makes it impossible to properly care for the entire crop. In such instances it is an exceedingly good practice to carefully harvest a portion of the very best of the crop and keep this out for seed purposes. This will practically insure grain of strong vitality.

It is often the matter of good or poor seed that stands between profit and loss on grain crops. A difference of a few cents between different brands of seed of a certain variety may mean a difference of several dollars to the acre between the crops raised.