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Report for 1937

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Changes in Staff

Rothamsted Research

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The main effect of time of sowing is shown between autumn and spring sowings. An examination of the spring sowing dates shows that very few of the earlier spring sowings fell into the lower grades. However, any effect of time of sowing is rather masked by the general late sowing in 1937, as shown by the comparison of the sowing dates of 1936 and 1937.

| Grade | <i>Time of Spring Sowing</i> | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| | Feb. | March 1st-14th | March 15th-28th | March 29th- April 11th | After April 11th |
| I, II, III | 3 | 6 | 16 | 34 | 9 |
| IV | 2 | 8 | 9 | 24 | 23 |
| V | 1 | — | 5 | 14 | 23 |
| VI | — | — | — | 5 | 5 |
| Total 1937 .. | 6 | 14 | 30 | 77 | 60 |
| Per cent. 1937 .. | 3.2 | 7.5 | 16.0 | 41.2 | 32.0 |
| Per cent. 1936 .. | 4.9 | 24.6 | 45.9 | 18.9 | 5.7 |

The use of manures followed the lines reported in previous years.

| Grade | <i>Manuring</i> | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| | No Manure | Artificials only | Organic Manures | Organic + Artificials |
| I, II, III | 7 | 57 | 19 | 15 |
| IV | 8 | 33 | 17 | 11 |
| V | 3 | 22 | 10 | 9 |
| VI | — | 3 | 5 | 2 |
| Total | 18 | 115 | 51 | 37 |
| Per cent. 1937 .. | 8 | 52 | 23 | 17 |
| Per cent. 1936 .. | 14 | 44 | 30 | 12 |

Of the 152 samples for which artificials were used, just one third of them used the newer high analysis compound fertilisers.

There seems to be little indication from these figures that the use of no manure resulted in better quality. When artificials were used some form of nitrogen was practically always included, even when artificials were applied after sheepling or ploughing in tops. The average dressing of nitrogen in artificial form was just under 20 lb. N per acre or slightly less than the equivalent of 1 cwt. sulphate of ammonia.

In 1937, out of over 200 samples, only 23 cases of very slightly lodged samples were reported, as compared with 21 per cent. seriously lodged in 1936.

CHANGES IN STAFF

The Station has unfortunately lost a number of valuable members of staff during the year (see page 10) and serious consideration should be given to the avoidance of too great a rate of change. A certain movement through the Institution is desirable but when changes occur too frequently a serious loss of time and money becomes inevitable.