

**Shaw, H. B.**, An improved method of separating buckhorn from red clover and alfalfa seeds. (Circular 2, Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Dept. Agriculture (Washington, D. C.), p. 1—12, figs. 1—10 (halftones), 13 May, 1908.)

The Buckhorn, *Plantago lanceolata*, L., is one of the commonest and most pernicious weeds in clover and alfalfa fields in the eastern United States. Hitherto it has been found impracticable to separate the seeds of this weed from those of clover or alfalfa. It was found that seeds of *Plantago lanceolata* became adhesive when moistened through the swelling up of a coating of mucilage that forms a glossy transparent coating on the dry seeds. By soaking the buckhorn seed five minutes in water at 65° F. (18.33° C.) or over and eight minutes if below that temperature, the mucilaginous coat swells up and if dry sawdust be mixed thoroughly with the seeds they become coated with sawdust and can be sifted out from the clover seeds very easily by using a screen having holes  $\frac{1}{15}$  inch in diameter. The clover or alfalfa seeds fall through upon a screen of No. 22 mesh wire cloth that allows the loose sawdust to pass through. The fine chaff of various grasses such as fescue or redtop, or even sand or dust may be used instead of sawdust. The seed to be cleaned of buckhorn may merely be wetted and then dried when the buckhorn seeds will be found to have attached to themselves a number of clover or alfalfa seeds; such seed balls are then screened out.

W. T. Swingle.

**Stephens, E. F.**, Are Orchards propagated by a Method called Whole-Root Grafts? (The Kansas Farmer, Topeka, Kans., XLVI. 25. p. 703. 1908.)

Discussion of the value of Siberian crab roots for stocks on which to graft the apple. Not important to graft on the entire root of the seedling stock, in fact it is better to graft on a piece of a strong stock than on the whole root of a small weak seedling.

The scion is said to exert a marked influence on the development of the root of the stock. Whitney No. 20, Siberian, Ben Davis, Winesap and Genet are named as developing diverse root systems.

W. T. Swingle.

**Rösning, G.**, Ein neuer Apparat zur Demonstration des Condensationsvermögens des Bodens für Ammoniak. (Zeitschr. f. d. landw. Versuchswesen in Oesterr. XI. 2. p. 123—127. 1908.)

Beschreibung eines von Prof. Remy konstruierten Apparates zur quantitativen Bestimmung des durch den Boden kondensierten  $\text{NH}_3$ . Eine Anzahl Bodenproben ergaben ziemlich übereinstimmend eine Kondensation von im Mittel 0,534 g  $\text{NH}_3$  durch je 100 g trockenen Bodens.

K. Linsbauer (Wien).

## Personalnachricht.

Décédé: M. **Auguste Daguillon**, Prof. à la Faculté des Sciences de Paris, le 17 Juillet dans sa 46<sup>e</sup> année, et M. **Alfred Giard**, Membre de l'Institut, Prof. à la Sorbonne, le 8 Août dans sa 62<sup>e</sup> année.

Ausgegeben: 29 September 1908.

Verlag von Gustav Fischer in Jena.  
Buchdruckerei A. W. Sijthoff in Leiden.

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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Botanisches Centralblatt](#)

Jahr/Year: 1908

Band/Volume: [108](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Redaktion des Botanischen Centralblatts

Artikel/Article: [Personalnachrichten. 352](#)