

The principles of Crop Production

Growth and Germination

The Third part

In the course of its growth, a plant passes through a definite cycle consisting of three separate stages: germination, the development of vegetative parts, and flowering, with the final production of seed. Some plants complete the cycle of growth within one season and are referred to as annuals. The cereals and pulse crops, which are grown on the farm for the purpose of utilizing their seeds as foods, are annuals. Some common farm weeds have an even shorter cycle of growth. *Shepherd's purse*, for example, goes through several growing cycles in one season, and plants of this nature are known as ephemerals, a word meaning short lived. Many weeds of a troublesome character found on farms are annuals, and

unless destroyed before flowering they produce a large number of seeds, which infest the soil for another season.

Many plants need two years to complete their cycle of growth. The first season of growth is devoted to the growth of vegetative parts and the building up of a reserve of plant foods which is available in the second year of growth for the production of flowers and seeds. Plants in this group are known as biennials, and all of them create a reserve of food for the second year.

There is a third group of plants known as perennials. Many of these produce flowers and seeds every year, but the plants themselves survive and gradually increase in size. Some perennials are described as herbaceous, and the leaves and stems die down at the end of the growing season. A familiar example of a herbaceous perennial is

the Michaelmas daisy, which is found in most gardens, and there are a large number of similar herbaceous flowering plants. The potato is a herbaceous perennial and the tubers are a form of underground stem.

Qs:

State which of the following statements is true and which false, according to the passage. Justify your answers by reference to the text.

The Third Part

1. Since many weeds are only annuals they die after one season and so do no harm.
2. Perennials grow larger every year.