

*Helping farmers get more from every acre . . .*

## World Citizen of Alfalfa Research

Farmers by the thousands in many nations have reason to be grateful to Etienne J. Vitrac, Technical Director for Research for Tourneur Frères in Coulommiers, France. For the improved alfalfa varieties developed under his direction have revolutionized the yield limits of this time-honored legume crop.

Mr. Vitrac is perhaps best known for the development of DuPuits alfalfa. This new variety proved to be doubly interesting because it introduced new thinking to the long-held belief that winter hardiness is always associated with strong fall dormancy. DuPuits has the unique characteristic of being winter hardy—yet it starts growth early in the spring and grows late in the fall. As a result, alfalfa breeders in many parts of the world are now trying to incorporate these unique features into other alfalfa varieties.

But DuPuits is only one of his plant breeding contributions. In the 28 years he has been associated with Tourneur Frères, his laboratory has developed some 11 varieties of wheat, 5 oats, 2 flaxes, 1 poppy, 3 types of sugar beet, a rice and a clover as well as two other superior alfalfas—Cardinal and 505. And the work continues on still other new alfalfas, with Mr. Vitrac putting particular emphasis on hybrids.

“We have great hopes for these ‘infants,’” says Mr. Vitrac, “but in our profession one must take care ‘not to sell the bear’s skin before having killed it.’ There is still a great deal to learn about alfalfa, and often several decades of work are necessary to achieve a given goal. But it’s worth it if, in the end, we can bring improved varieties to growers, thus helping them make a better living.”

Mr. Vitrac is one of the outstanding plant scientists across the world who is hard at work helping farmers get more from every acre. Northrup King is proud to know and recognize men like him. For their aspirations—like our own—are to bring to farmers and seedsmen ever-higher quality seed.

**NORTHRUP, KING & CO.**



MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. • BOISE, IDAHO • FRESNO, CALIF.



**MR. ETIENNE J. VITRAC**, Technical Director for Research, Tourneur Frères, Coulommiers, France.