processing plant in Norman County. The acreage in 1954 was 410 acres, 3200 acres in 1955, 16,600 acres in 1956, 10,400 acres in 1957 and 10,900 in 1958. The soybeans are leguminous and as a cultivated crop fit well in a crop rotation plan. Included in the recommended variety list are Acme, Flambeau and Capital.

Sunflowers

During the past ten years, from a few to several hundred acres of Sunflowers have been grown in the county. The first sunflowers grown in Minnesota were grown in northeastern Minnesota as a silage crop, when cooler temperatures were unfavorable for corn. The tall growing Russian sunflowers were grown in experimental plots for silage at the Northwest Experiment Station some thirty years ago. The crop out-yielded corn in tonnage but the tough, hard stems made the crop difficult to handle. Cows ate the silage when they became accustomed to it. The commercial sunflower varieties of today are grown for seed. The plants grow from four to six feet in height and the seed crop is harvested by straight combining. Much of the crop has been sold to an oil processing plant at Altoona, Manitoba, while some of the crop goes to feed dealers for bird seed. The better varieties grown today are hybrids and new hybrid seed should be purchased each year, same as hybrid corn. The hybrid Advance has proved to be the best high oil content variety and yields 1000 to 2000 pounds of seed per acre. The taller, open pollinated varieties such as Arrowhead gives higher yields but are less desirable for oil.

Hemp

Hemp, as a fiber crop, has been grown experimentally by farmers at three different intervals in the county's history and at two different intervals by the Northwest Experiment Station at Crookston. A few stacks of hemp were observed on farms in the Crookston vicinity by the writer in 1911. The stacks were reported as three years old and due to the failure of the hemp to ret, the stacks were burned.

During and immediately following World Wars I and II when the importation of hemp was in jeopardy, the United States Department of Agriculture, through its Office of Fiber Investigations, cooperated with the State Experiment Stations of the Midwest in the growing of hemp and several hemp mills were built in central and south central Minnesota. In the World War I period the International Harvester Company cooperated with the United States Department of Agriculture in building hemp harvesting machinery which was tested at the Northwest Experiment Station. The company set up a hemp processing plant at Grand Forks. The hemp tests in the World War II period corroborated the findings of the previous tests, namely, that climatic conditions, rainfall and soil moisture conditions in northwestern Minnesota were unfavorable for the ground retting of the hemp, and secondly, that the tonnage yield was much less than in the warmer and more humid areas further south.