

THE WATERDOWN REVIEW

Issued Every Thursday morning from the office, Dundas Street, Waterdown
G. H. GREENE
 Editor and Publisher
 Member C. W. N. A.

ABOUT THE SILO FILLING

Both Cutting Outfit and Moisture Content Important.

Have Sufficient Horse-power for Cutting—How to Control the Moisture Content—Mustard—Advantages of Dairying.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

When silo filling is to be done quickly, that is, one hundred or more tons of fodder cut per day, the cutter and the power must be in keeping with the work at hand. An eighteen horse-power engine or motor and a fourteen-inch blower cutter will handle one hundred tons per day. Where smaller silos are used and the farmer desires to, or has to, do the work largely with the farm help, small cutters can be used. Eight-inch cutters will handle three tons per hour if driven by an engine of not less than eight horse-power.

Have Sufficient Horse-power for Cutting.

Claims are often made that two or three horse-power outfits can do effective work, but this is a mistake. If the work is to be done quickly and effectively with the best use of labor the power should be ample. If it is desired to cut forty tons per day the power should be not less than eight horse. Sixty tons per day the power should be twelve horse. One hundred tons per day will require an eighteen horse-power engine. The cutter should be of the proper size for the power used. Carrier cutters do not require as much power as do the blower cutters, but the advantage of easier erection, simplicity and ease of wetting the fodder through the use of the blower offsets the increased power requirement. Cylinder and knife on fly-wheel types of machines are equally satisfactory providing of course that they are equally well built. Low priced, poorly constructed fodder cutters are dangerous. Select a cutter with a good reputation, and one that is as well built as a good steam engine is built.

Moisture Content Important.

It is essential that there should be sufficient moisture present in the fodder at the time it is being put into the silo to provide the water requirement for the ensiling process and leave the surplus necessary to have amply moist well made silage, after the fermentative and cooling processes have taken place. With sufficient moisture present in the ensiled mass there is little danger of the fermentation temperatures running too high, the greater the amount of water present the firmer the cut fodder will pack and the smaller the spaces for air. Corn in the early glazed or denting stage, oats, peas or vetch green enough for high grade hay making carry sufficient water in the natural juices to meet the requirement for ensilage. Frequently it is necessary to use corn, oats, peas or sunflowers that have suffered from drouth, or have dried through delays or have been permitted to remain unharvested until long past the best condition for silage making. If so, the shortage of plant juices can be made up by the application of water in quantity sufficient to thoroughly wet the fodder.

How to Apply the Extra Moisture.

Water is best applied by running a stream directly into the fodder cutter while the fodder is being passed through and blown up into the silo. With water under pressure, a valve to control the flow and a section of garden hose the process of wetting the cut fodder is easily accomplished. Corn fodder that has remained in the field until December and become quite dry can be successfully ensiled if sufficient attention is paid to wetting and packing thoroughly in the silo. The wetting must be complete and all the air possible pressed out by tramping the evenly spread cut fodder as it goes into the silo. With red clover, alfalfa, peas, oats, vetch, rye, sweet clover, mustard, grasses, sunflower, corn or artichoke stalks, there is little likelihood of overdoing the wetting if a stave silo is used, since such a structure permits any surplus moisture to drain away. With water-tight cement concrete or tile silos a little judgment is required in determining the amount of water required to give complete saturation but not flooding. For further information regarding silo building and ensilage apply to the Department for a copy of Bulletin 287.—L. Stevenson, Sec. Dept. of Agriculture, Toronto.

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