

Soil drifting is becoming a real menace to profitable crop production on our heavy as well as on our light types of soil. Its worst effects are to be observed on fallowed land, either the year of the fallow or the spring succeeding. In many cases where the frequent use of the fallow is not necessary corn, if introduced occasionally, will perform, in a large degree, the function of the fallow, and the corn stubble, while not preventing, will considerably lessen the drifting. And what is of greater moment, the manure resulting from the feeding of the corn crop will replace the organic matter which is so essential to the control of both soil drifting and soil moisture.

The cost of producing farm crops must be kept down if farming as a business is to be profitable. Corn ground that has been well inter-tilled and kept clean does not need to be ploughed, hence the cost of preparing it for a cereal crop is very considerably reduced, and to that extent the profit on the succeeding crop is increased.

USES OF THE CORN CROP.

In this province corn may be grown either for fodder, for soiling purposes, for "hogging off," or for silage. The form in which it is generally used at the present time is as cured fodder for cattle. For soiling purposes, however, dairy farmers will find it to be unexcelled for milk production in the dry part of the summer when the pastures have dried up. The "hogging off" of early maturing corn in the warmer parts of the province, while not yet practised to any extent, promises to aid materially in cheapening the cost of producing hogs as well as in lowering the cost of crop production.

Corn is the most suitable silage crop we have. It is doubtful whether at this time, however, it will pay the average man to erect a silo, although there is little doubt about the desirability of dairy men and other owners of large herds of cattle doing so. In this connection it should be pointed out that a cheaper form of silo, and one that in the Western States is now being used quite extensively, namely, the Pit silo, is likely to fill the early need of the small stockman quite satisfactorily.

SUITABLE SOILS.

Corn prefers a warm soil. Other conditions being similar it will start earlier and grow faster on a rich loam soil than on any heavier type. In our climate, however, it has been commonly observed that, except in years of early fall frosts, corn produces a much heavier growth of forage when planted on low-lying soil that is well supplied with moisture. A light, warm soil under similar conditions would no doubt yield more. The crop needs both a warm and a moist soil. Where grain is desired warm soils are essential, but where forage only is looked for, while warm soils are favoured, the crop will produce heavily on any well prepared land.