

CROPS FOR ENSILAGE.

The best material for ensilage appears to be corn, but almost any crop cut at the proper stage may be used.

Clover has been used with success in some parts, but it is rather uncertain as its peculiarities have not been studied sufficiently as yet. The conditions necessary for success with this plant and the exact stage of cutting appear to be more exacting than in the case of corn (*Zea mays*.) Any plants with hollow stems as rye or clover are more uncertain of curing properly than those with solid stems as Indian corn or mangled tops.

PREPARATION OF MATERIAL.

Most material for ensilage seems to give best results when cut previous to storing in silo.

Indian corn put in uncut has been known to come out in good shape, but the loss from feeding the long coarse stalks and the uncertainty of properly curing much more than make up for the trouble of cutting.

Clover has been a success in many instances when put in the silo uncut.

Sorghum, where it can be grown, makes an excellent crop for ensilage. It needs to be cut. The best length to cut corn, &c., for the silo is into pieces three quarters of an inch long.

FILLING THE SILO.

In filling the silo it will be found an excellent plan to have the material as it falls from the carrier or blower descend through a tube made up of a number of salt sacks tacked together with the bottoms out. By this means it will be found possible to mix the leaves and stems much more thoroughly and easily than where forks are used in keeping the surface level.

Packing the ensilage evenly in all parts of the silo is a considerable factor in the quality of the finished product.

The silo should be filled to the top, allowed to settle, then filled again.

This filling up operation should be continued as long as possible.

The ensilage needs no pressure on the top nor cover of any kind as it very soon forms a layer of partially decayed matter 2 or 3 inches thick, quite impervious to air, which serves as a protector for the rest of the contents of the silo. This process may be hastened, however, and a small saving of ensilage effected by pouring about a pail of water to the foot of surface and sowing oats thickly over it, or by scattering chaff on top and wetting it in the same way.

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