

# THE O. A. C. REVIEW

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SOCIETY OF THE ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE,  
GUELPH.

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MAY, 1896.

## Cultivation of Corn.

**S**INCE the introduction of the silo, the acreage of corn grown in the Province has been very much increased. Many have given up the growing of roots and are now growing corn. It is probable that those who were successful root growers require very little instruction in regard to corn growing. At the same time there are a few general principles which may be reviewed by all with a fair amount of profit.

We shall take it for granted, that the planting season is just passed, and that the crop has been planted on a field that is fairly rich. If such has not been done a large yield cannot be expected, no matter what the after cultivation may be as corn belongs to that class of plants known as heavy feeders.

Usually corn is planted on ground that has been previously rolled. In a dry season like the present one this is an excellent practice, providing that the after cultivation is of the proper kind. The rolling of the ground at the time of planting tends to bring moisture from the lower to the surface soil where the young plants are; but if the land is allowed to remain in this condition the moisture reaches the surface and is lost by evaporation. The great object of the farmer throughout the season should be to prevent this evaporation.

Everyone has noticed how moist soil becomes in a few days after it has been rolled. On ordinary corn ground it is usually noticed in four or five days after planting. This is the time for the first cultivation. A light harrow may be used at this stage. It will not disturb the seed and will loosen the soil on top of it. The harrow may be used again after the plants have come through the ground. Such a process will disturb weeds before they get strong root hold and will very much lessen the evaporation from the soil.

When the plants are above ground, use should be made of the hand-hoe in the vicinity of the plants. This should be done whether

there are weeds or not, as it will tend to check evaporation in the most important places. As the season advances the horse-hoe or some such implement should be used at least once a week. Very often this is neglected in harvest time and as a result we often see corn wilting during the day, simply because transpiration is taking place more rapidly than the water is taken up by the roots. During such a time if evaporation from the soil were checked more moisture would pass through the plants, and a more rapid growth would follow.

As the season advances the cultivation should be more shallow and not so near the plants, otherwise the small feeding rootlets will be cut off. In fact a mere stirring of the surface inch is better than cutting to a depth of four or five inches.

Where the crop is grown for ensilage and large varieties are used, it is a good plan to cut or pull out the suckers, as these interfere with the cutting and are often lost in the gathering.

J. A.

## Personals.

H. C. Gillespie, '94, is in California on a fruit farm.

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G. F. Humphrey, '94, is on an extensive ranch in Australia.

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F. Rowe, B. S. A., '95, has returned to his home in England.

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W. E. Thom, '95, is working on his father's dairy farm near Morrisburg, Ont.

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A. N. Macdonald, '94, is a partner with his brother in the firm of John Macdonald, Toronto, Ont.

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B. W. Gonin, '94, is studying law in Worthing, Eng. He plays centre half on one of the best football teams in England.

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A. W. Logie, '94, is working with the Greenshields, breeders of Jersey and Ayrshire cattle, Montreal. He attended the exhibitions last fall.

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W. W. McKinley, '94, is farming near Seely's Bay, Leeds Co. "Billy" will be remembered as the big rough football kicker on the Third team of 1894.

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We clipped the following from an eastern newspaper: "Among the graduates at the fourth session of the Ontario Dairy School at Guelph we find the name of D. J. Macpherson, Lancaster, who appears on the honor list in practical work and written examinations on cheese making, butter making, milk testing, use of cream separators