## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

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## Corn Planting.

(Experimental Farms Note) Indian corn, the peerless crop of the mixed farm, has a gradually enlarging sphere of usefulness in the Dominion of Canada. It is grown most extensively in the Province of Ontario; the corn growing line in the Province of Quebec is gradually being pushed northward, and in several districts in the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia the corn crop is gaining in favor.

This reliable crop will grow on a wide range of soil provided always there is good drainage and a plentiful supply of suitable plant food. It is specially adapted to warm, deep loam soils rich in decaying vegetable matter (humus) underlaid with a porous clay.

In the rotation, corn should follow clover hay or pasture. It may also be grown after grain or even follow a hoed crop, provided the soil is rich or a heavy application of manure has been made.

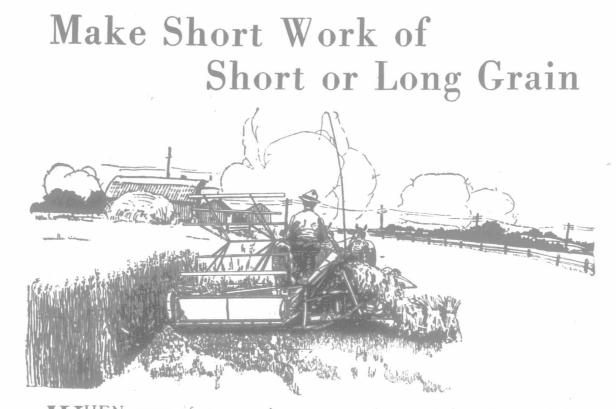
Fresh or green barnyard manure is the best plant food material, 12 to 15 tons per acre may be expected to give good returns. The application may be made in the fall, winter or spring. It may be worked in on top of the plowing or plowed under. The latter method is usually the most practicable and gives uniformly satisfactory results when properly carried out. The manure should not be buried too deeply in order that there will be the least possible chance for the leaching of valuable plant food constituents to depths in the soil beyond the reach of the immediate and future crops.

The aim in the preparation of the seed-bed should be to have it deep, moist, clean and fine. Clay land to be used for corn should ordinarily be fall plowed, turning a fairly deep furrow but no deeper than the productive soil will allow. Sands and loams, shallow springplowed, provide most favorable conditions for corn. Plowed under immediately before planting, the sod, the growth of grass and the dressing of manure decompose rapidly, create a "hot-bed or warm condition" in the soil—necessary for the quick germination of the seed and the rapid growth of the plant, the secret to successful corn growing.

Moisture is a factor which must be duly considered in all seed-beds. No seed-bed is complete until the surface and sub-surface soil are connected, with the manure well incorporated so that there is no hindrance to the rise of soil moisture from the depths of the soil to where it may be available as required by the growing plant.

Hill and row are the two methods of planting. Hill planting 3 feet each way is recommended for weed infested fields since horse labor can be used to a maximum in the control of weed growth. It is also an advisable method where seed production is the aim or in short season districts, since hill planting is conducive to a quicker maturity of the crop than row planting.

Row planting. Row planting 36 to 42 inches apart, is preferred on land in a good state of cultivation. No special machinery is required since the ordinary seed-drill answers the purpose and in harvesting there is less wear and tear on the corn harvester than is observed in harvesting



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hill-planted corn.

The rate of seeding is an important consideration. For each hill from 3 to 5 seeds of strong vitality are sufficient. For rows, 15 to 20 pounds per acre of high-quality seed will usually give a stand thick enough to permit of harrowing.

The right time for planting corn depends upon soil and weather conditions, It should not be planted until every indication of cold weather is thought to be past. Neither should corn planting be left so late that there is danger of an insufficient moisture supply and a too short season for growth. The right time for planting can hardly be explained. The experienced planter feels "in his bones" that suitable conditions exist. The beginner can acquire this knowledge only by observation and the exercise of judgment. The range of dates is between May 15th and June 10th. The varieties of corn for silage to sow decrend

The varieties of corn for silage to sow depend upon the district where seeding is to be done. The flint varieties including Longfellow, Compton's Early and Salzer's North Dakota, among the earliest maturing varieties, are therefore, suitable for the short season corn growing districts. In the longer season districts