

Special Preparation for Level or Clayey Lands.

Where either heavy clay land or level land not under-drained is to be used, it is not infrequently advisable to make special preparation by ploughing and working in a special way.

The land should be ploughed in nicely rounded ridges exactly 10 feet 6 inches from centre to centre. All necessary cultivation should be so done as to preserve the rounding surface of the ridges, and the dead furrows should be kept clean and should open into a well-kept ditch, thus insuring good drainage.

In planting, the first row should be run down the middle of the ridge and two others on the same ridge, one on each side 42 inches away. Thus the rows on the whole field will be uniformly 3 feet 6 inches apart and always clear of dead furrows.

When to Sow.

Corn should be sown as early as weather and soil conditions permit. From the 15th to the end of May, according to district and season, is a very good rule. Very seldom will it do to sow later than June 5 or 6. Sow when soil is warm and dry.

Methods of Seeding.

Corn for forage or ensilage may be planted in rows or hills. If planted in rows as usually advisable, the rows should be at least 42 inches apart. The plants should stand about 8 inches apart in the rows. In seeding, it would not be advisable to try to sow as sparsely as this. It is better to give a rather heavier seeding and then thin out to the desired thickness with a hoe when plants are 6 or 8 inches high.

If land intended for corn is very dirty, whether from the presence of weed seeds or couch grass, it is usually advisable to plant in hills. The hills should be at least three feet apart each way, and from three to five kernels should be planted in each hill.

Suitable Varieties.

The varieties of corn to sow will depend upon the district where the seeding is to be done. For the Maritime Provinces, for those parts of Quebec north of Montreal and St. Hyacinthe and east of Three Rivers, and for northern Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, the flint varieties should be grown most largely. Some of the best varieties are Longfellow, Compton's Early, Angel of Midnight and North Dakota White Flint. In these same districts a few of the dents may be expected to give good results, the best being White Cap Yellow Dent. In those parts of Ontario east and north of Toronto, as far as Muskoka, in the southern parts of Quebec and in the Eastern Townships, considerably larger varieties may be expected to give good results. As varieties suitable for said districts might be mentioned any of the flints, White Cap Yellow Dent, Leaming, Golden Glow and Wisconsin No. 7.

Early Crop Treatment.

A few days after seeding, say the third or fourth day in warm weather, or the fourth or fifth day in cool weather, it is well to run over the field with a slant-tooth harrow, or lacking this, with a light smoothing harrow. This will break the crust, destroy any weeds and help warm the soil, thus encouraging growth of the corn. A few days after the corn is up, and when it can be distinctly seen in rows, it is often advisable to run the light smoothing harrow over it again. This time it had better be run across the rows. Subsequent cultivation will need to be done with special cultivators.