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## GROWING CORN FOR THE SILO

Geo. Carlson, Northumberland Co., Ont.

To have the best results with corn we should aim to have a good clover sod to plow down in the spring. If this field is manured in the winter or early spring, the clover gets a good growth by the time we are through seeding, and is probably four or five inches in height. This is then plowed down, using a jointer on the plow which turns manure and green clover in the bottom of the furrow, about four inches deep. The roller is used after each day's plowing to pack the manure and clover together. This causes it to start decaying and heating, thus warming the soil, which is so necessary for the quick germination and forcing of the corn plant. The harrows are then used to break up the surface and arrest the evaporation of soil moisture. This method is carried through until the field is all plowed, rolled and harrowed. It is then left for a few days to allow any weed seeds that may be near the surface to germinate. Also, to let the manure and clover get pretty well heated, whereby the soil is getting warmer all the time. The disc harrows are then used on the field cutting the soil to a depth of about three inches, which makes a good, fine seed bed, at the same time destroying any seeds that may have germinated.

### 15 LBS. SEED CORN TO THE ACRE

The corn is then sown, about three inches deep or right down on the top of the heating clover and manure, at the rate of about 15 to 20 pounds an acre, in drills three feet apart. We would prefer sowing three and a half feet apart. Owing, however, to cultivating with our three horse cultivator, which cultivates two rows at a time, and will only cultivate a three foot row, we sow a little thinner in the row so as to get a larger number of ears. Sow about 24th May or as soon after as possible.



Consolidating the Metal

A better road is made where the roller is used to consolidate the "Metal" or crushed stone, than where the ordinary traffic of the highway is depended upon to do this work.

After sowing, the ground is harrowed every two or three days to keep the surface fine and to destroy weeds. When the corn is coming through the ground harrowing is discontinued for a few days, until the corn is two or three inches high, when the harrows are again started and kept at it until the corn is seven or eight inches high. As the corn gets higher we harrow

only during the heat of the day, as the sun heats the plant and it does not break off with the harrows.

The large three horse cultivator is then taken to the field and the wheels placed between the rows evenly. Two teeth that may come directly over the rows are taken off and two or three others are shifted a little. We then bolt four sheet iron wings on the frame which protects the rows of corn from the earth being thrown up by the teeth. The cultivator is set to go as deeply as possible so as to tear up the manure and mix with the earth, which keeps it warmer and helps to hold the moisture. Each time the cultivator goes through the corn after this, the teeth are kept out a little so as not to disturb the small rootlets which are spreading out looking for heat and plant food. This cultivator is used three or four times and then of course the single scuffler is used until the corn gets too large to go through with a horse. The more we cultivate the larger yield we may look for, and of course the cheaper will our silage be to us.

### TO MAKE SWEET SILAGE

In cutting for the silo, using a corn harvester, we prefer the corn rather on the ripe side than



Distributing the Metal

The crushed stone should be screened as it comes from the machine. The finer material can then be applied on top. Where this practice is followed a smooth surface is secured in a short time.

too green, as we find we have a very much better quality of silage. If for any reason the corn is too green, we allow it to become frozen, which takes up some of the surplus moisture and makes a sweeter silage than if put in on the green side. Some, of course, cut it and set it up in large round stooks in the field, where it dries out considerably and gives fair results. But taking into consideration the scarcity of labor and handling the corn over an extra time, we doubt very much if anything is saved by this practice.

### OBTAIN SEED FROM RELIABLE GROWERS

In selecting our seed, we buy the corn on the cob, from some good, reliable growers in South Western Ontario, from whom we can get a guarantee as to the germinating quality of the corn. This is worth a good deal as we are almost sure of a good crop, if we have been careful in preparing our seed bed.

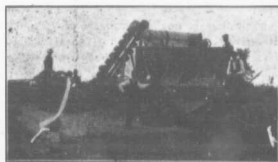
We use the White Cap Yellow Dent variety which will ripen in our district under a favorable season. In selecting a variety we should be care-

ful to choose an early ripening variety that has as heavy yielding qualities as possible.

## Experience in Road Making

W. A. Kelman, Reeve S. Dumfries

In the Township of South Dumfries we have had for a number of years a road grader and roller (horse roller only of six tons weight). Two years ago we purchased a portable stone crusher.



Crushing the Stone

It costs something to crush stone and place it on the highway in a proper manner. But, once you have it there it is a never ending source of satisfaction.

We were then working under the commutation of statute labor system. Statute labor was commuted at the rate of 75 cents a day. This money together with grants from the general funds of the Township, was expended under the supervision of one road commissioner for the Township. We engaged one man to operate the grader throughout the season, he to furnish two teams and driver. In this way we secured much better work than under the old statute labor system, when green teams were put on in every road beat.

The operator's teams, when not in use on the grader were employed hauling crushed stone or gravel, or on the roller. Our principle was to do as little as possible in the way of patch work. Short stretches on some of the leading roads in different parts of the Township were properly graded and drained, then rolled and metalled with broken stone. In some cases the stone was screened and the finer material put on top. When not convenient to screen (as we have no bins, merely using an extra wagon when crushing), it was all allowed to run into the wagon together and though not so good as where the stone is screened, it makes a very satisfactory road.

We have never used a traction engine in connection with our grader. I think it is only practicable on long straight stretches of road. A large part of our Township is very stony and the cuts through the hills are too narrow to admit of the use of an engine.

A large proportion of the money we have been spending in the last few years has been for permanent improvements in the replacing of the old wooden culverts, with concrete tile, which we manufacture in the Township. We have also laid out considerable in the building of concrete arches in place of old wooden bridges. It is hoped in the course of a few years to have all culverts and bridges built in this way. Then more money will be available for building and maintaining good roads.