

# Growing Fodder Corn

Successful Experience in Three Provinces



I have grown corn for three years in Manitoba and my last crop was the most successful. I prepared the ground by applying good barnyard manure during fall and winter on clean wheat stubble. In the spring I first

plowed the ground, then harrowed it well, and followed this with the packer. Then, about June 8 I began sowing with a single (20) disk drill. To secure the same distance between the rows I stuffed the first two cups with paper missed one and stuffed four and so on. By driving straight there is lots of room to cultivate. I planted deep enough to reach the moisture, using three different kinds: Longfellow, Improved Lemming and Minnesota King. There was very little difference between the varieties, except that the Improved Lemming had more and larger leaves. I sowed eighteen acres at the rate of about three-quarters of a bushel to the acre. I believe in testing the seed. The corn was harrowed several times before it came through the ground and cultivated twice during the season, hilling up a little both times, with a corn cultivator. I found it impossible to cut this corn with a grain binder on account of it being so tall. It averaged from five to eight feet long and I was compelled to get a corn harvester to handle it. It should be cut in September to avoid frost. I stocked it in very large stacks, from fifty to sixty sheaves to each. The yield was six tons to the acre. I prefer corn stubble to summerfallow for wheat as the ground does not need to be plowed. It is firm; will hold the moisture and gives a larger yield. As we have no silo yet we feed the corn out of the sheaf. It is a good milk producer and the stock prefer it to any other green food.

WM. ARCHIBALD.

Man.

## GOOD CORN IN CENTRAL ALBERTA

In the summer of 1914 I covered 14 acres with manure and plowed it down about August 11, letting it lie as plowed. The next spring as soon as the weeds were started I harrowed to conserve moisture, and to destroy weeds. I continued to do this at intervals until May 14, when I planted the corn. The soil I chose was a black sandy loam, with a rather sandy, well drained subsoil. In planting I used a check planter drawn by two horses with a wire running across the planter to do the checking. The rows were three feet six inches apart one way and three feet the other. I did not harrow the corn just after it was up as some advocate, as I thought it would pull too much of it out, but it went through it with a cultivator. I used shields to keep from covering the corn and still put the dirt close around the young plants. The second time I went through the field I went at right angles to the first way in order to get the last of the weeds. This left the field in good condition as far as weeds were concerned and also helped to distribute the manure through the soil; this, I think, was very beneficial. The first cultivating was done about June 25; the second about August 1 and the last about the last of August, leaving no chance for weeds to come up in time to go to seed before the frost.

The variety used was Northwestern Dent, which I believe to be the thing for this part of the continent. I planted about six kernels to the hill. The seed should always be tested. On account of a rather dry spell in August the crop made but poor ears, but considering the very unfavorable season for corn it did very well. I may say that I visited a demonstration farm about June 1 and the corn there was of such a poor stand that they afterwards plowed it up, but the field on my place showed a very even stand, about four stalks to the hill. I harvested the corn with the common binder about September 15 and put it in a large stack so that the fodder would come out green and bright. I fed it the same as I do the oat sheaves, but am not fully convinced that it is superior to

good oat sheaves. I have built a round barn and am putting a silo in the centre. The next corn crop I raise I expect to put into it as I do not think one gets the full benefit of corn growing unless it is cut green and fed as ensilage. I am milking from 15 to 20 cows and am looking for an excellent feed for winter, and expect to find it in corn. My corn has yielded six tons of good feed per acre. Last season I had wheat on corn ground, and although it was the last seeded it was very promising when the frost came on August 10 and 11. If one has the time to put in the corn crop, I think it a long way ahead of summerfallow.

C. J. CURTIS.

Alta.

## CORN GROWING IN SASKATCHEWAN

For corn I select a piece of ground intended for summerfallow. This I double disk in the fall and during the winter I manure it at the rate of about nine tons per acre. In spring I plow the land seven inches deep and harrow it the same day. I then let it stand until the rush of the other work is past when it is given one or two shallow runs of the cultivator, care being taken to avoid pulling the manure to the surface. I then harrow and pack. Packing is important as it lessens the interspaces in the soil and increases the capillary action of moisture from the subsoil. For seeding I use the ordinary grain drill, closing the two spouts near each wheel, leaving the third open and closing the next four, leaving the eighth open. This, with a twenty drill machine, gives four drills to a run. With seed germinating around 90 per cent I sow forty pounds per acre. Should it germinate more I sow a pound or so less and vice versa. I believe in testing all grain before seeding. Most machines, if set to sow three bushels of wheat, will sow very nearly the desired amount. In seeding drive as straight as possible, as besides being unsightly a crooked drill is difficult to handle with a horse cultivator. After seeding I harrow and pack again, running the harrow over the field once a week until the corn is up five or six inches. This does the corn no harm but kills a multitude of small weeds, besides forming a mulch to check evaporation. About this time it is necessary to keep a sharp look out for gophers, as these pests seem to have a special liking for corn at this stage.

In keeping down weeds during the growing season I use a single horse hoe or scumler which I keep moving at intervals until the corn is almost shading both man and horse. As to time of planting much will depend on the season. Any time from the second week in May till the first week in June will do. Last year I sowed on June 3 and harvested on August 26. Much of the crop was over seven feet high and it averaged five feet eight inches. This gave five good loads per acre.

Sask.

W. WILSON.



MANITOBA GROWN

## CORN FOR FODDER IN MANITOBA

I have grown corn for fodder more or less extensively for the last seven years, and in that time have only had one failure and that was when, owing to the late summer frosts, the corn was kept back to such an extent that when the early fall frosts came it was not sufficiently matured to be of much use. The acreage sown to corn in 1915 was fully double that of any previous year, and the failure of the crop seemed to discourage a lot of beginners as the acreage sown last year was not more than half that of 1915. I believe, however, that in a very few years corn will be as important a crop on the average mixed farm in Southern Manitoba as the oat or barley crop.

I always sow my corn on the poorest ground, that is, ground that I would otherwise leave for summerfallow. By doing this I do not lose a crop and I find that I have just as good a crop of wheat after corn as after summerfallow. I would not

advise anyone to sow corn on land badly infested with sow or Canadian thistles unless they were prepared to put a lot of work with the cultivator as well as hand hoeing on it during the summer. It is impossible to get all the thistles with the cultivator even when the corn is check rowed. I use a check row planter, planting the corn three feet six inches apart each way, setting it to drop from four to six grains in each hill and prefer this to sowing in drills, as it can be cultivated both ways. I sow from 12 to 15 acres a day on the half mile with the two-row planter. Anyone going in for corn growing extensively should invest in a planter though of course one planter would do two or three farmers.

In the fall I always skim plow and harrow land that I intend to sow to corn, harrowing again a couple of times in the spring. The spring harrowing answers a double purpose, that of conserving moisture and getting weed seeds to germinate. I then leave it until just before sowing the corn, usually the last week in May. Then I plow fairly deep, pack and harrow, sow the corn and harrow again. The more work done on the land before the corn is up, the less it requires afterwards, and by having a good well worked seed bed one gets a more even germination. I never harrow the corn after it is up, but leave it until it is about four inches high when I start the cultivator, setting it to run as close as possible to the corn without covering it. I cultivate lengthwise and crosswise alternately, keeping the cultivator going until the corn gets too high. I cultivated my corn four times last year, twice each way. Although I had a fairly clean crop I would have gone over it a couple of times more but for lack of time. The more cultivation that corn gets the better.

## Amount Per Acre—Varieties

I find that from 10 to 12 pounds of seed an acre is plenty when planted with a check row planter. I sowed 40 acres with nine bushels of seed last year and it was thick enough. As to variety I prefer Northwestern Dent, but last spring owing to the high price of this variety I got Longfellow and some North Dakota Flint, and was well satisfied with the crop. I could see no difference in the two kinds. Two years ago I sowed a variety called Silver King and had as good a crop of corn as I ever saw. One year I sowed some that I got out of a car that was shipped in for feed, having tested it and found it to germinate 75 per cent and had a good crop, although there were no cobs on it.

Although I have always been lucky in getting good seed I think that it is a good plan to test corn before seeding it; it is not much trouble to test a sample and might save a person a lot of trouble later. I certainly would not sow corn that did not show a high germination.



Thorough Summer Cultivation is Necessary for Successful Corn Growing—But It Pays

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