

8. The growing of corn on a fair proportion of arable land on the farm will permit of keeping more cattle, and so increase the revenue as well as augment the manure supply, so essential to the maintenance of soil fertility.

9. Corn, when preserved as ensilage, can be stored much more cheaply in much less space than any other roughage. In addition, stored in this way it will keep indefinitely and is always ready to feed. Ten tons silage occupies no more space than one ton hay. One ton hay is worth about two and one-half tons silage.

10. In thirty-five years' experience in farming in the Ottawa valley, the writer has seen all kinds of grain crops utter failures; he has seen hay so light as not to pay for the making and roots and potatoes practically nil, but in all that time he has never seen a failure in the corn crop. There has always been a fairly profitable return from the fields in corn.

11. It makes it possible to greatly lessen the pasturage, consequently more land can be brought under cultivation.

12. At a moderate estimate, two cows can be kept on the same acreage and at the same cost when corn ensilage is properly grown and used as one on the same farm when cattle are fed on hay or other roughage.

Where to Grow it.

Corn will grow in any kind of soil, provided always that there is good drainage. Under drainage is not absolutely necessary, although advisable here as with other farm crops. On low-lying or level lands, ditches should be in good working condition and water furrows kept open all summer. If a choice of land may be made, then warm-bottomed, light loamy soil may be expected to prove the most satisfactory under most weather conditions.

In the rotation, corn should follow clover hay, pasture or meadow. Corn might advantageously come after grain, or even follow a hoed crop, provided the land were very fertile or a very heavy dressing of manure were applied.

Manurial Requirements.

The best fertilizing material for corn is undoubtedly good barnyard manure. A mixture of one part horse manure to three parts cattle manure applied at the rate of 12 or 15 tons per acre, may be expected to give very good results. Application might be made in the fall, winter or spring, or during the previous year. If ploughed in, only a shallow furrow should be turned.

Preparation of the Soil.

Where clay land is to be used for corn, it is generally well to plough in the autumn, turning a well set-up, moderately deep furrow (5 to 7 inches deep), being careful, of course, to go no deeper than usual. If light land is to be used it is generally advisable to plough in the spring, turning a flat, shallow furrow (3 or 4 inches deep). In either case the manure may be ploughed in or worked in on the surface with the disc harrow.

The land should be worked down till a smooth, mellow, yet solid seed bed has been prepared. To get the land into such shape, it may be necessary to disc and roll several times as well as work with a smoothing harrow. In any case, no planting should be done until what might be called a perfect seed bed has been prepared. Success or failure will depend very largely upon this feature of thorough soil preparation before seeding.