

CORN FOR FORAGE OR ENSILAGE CORN.

Corn for forage or ensilage corn can be grown to advantage in almost all parts of Canada at present occupied by farmers or stockmen. Results have not been satisfactory in every case where efforts have been made to grow it, but this has very often been due to wrong cultural methods practised or unsuitable varieties grown, rather than to adverse climatic peculiarities.

Reasons for Growing Forage Corn.

The reasons for growing or making an attempt to grow this forage crop wherever live stock are kept in any numbers are numerous and cogent. A few of them follow:—

1. As a plant capable of yielding a large amount of valuable forage under a great variety of soil and climatic conditions, corn is without an equal.

2. When properly preserved, whether as ensilage or dried, it can be used as material to render other less palatable roughage more acceptable to farm animals.

3. It is the best plant or crop for ensiling that can be grown to advantage in Canada. It is practically a perfect crop for this purpose, hence it helps to solve the great problem of how to furnish an abundant and cheap supply of succulent food for winter or summer feeding of dairy or beef cattle.

4. When properly grown and well preserved as ensilage, it is the equal of or superior to roots in feeding value and palatability. It can, however, generally speaking, be more cheaply grown and more easily preserved than roots.

5. The labour of growing an acre of corn is of a character much more agreeable to perform and much less arduous than that of growing an acre of roots of any description.

6. Corn being a cultivated or hoed crop serves well to clean the land, that is, free it from weeds, so fitting it for grain growing, and putting it into shape to seed down to grass or hay.

7. Corn is a gross feeder and may be depended upon to make good use of a never so abundant supply of plant food. It is, for this reason, particularly well adapted to occupy that place in the rotation where humifying vegetable matter and a fairly liberal supply of barn yard manure unite to supply large quantities of plant food suitable for root, leaf and stem growth rather than for seed production.

8. The growing of corn on a fair proportion of the 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.

10. In thirty 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 to not 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.