

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN  
THE DOMINION.

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### Fodder Corn in South-western Manitoba. AS GROWN BY R. M. GRAHAM, MAPLEHURST FARM, NEAR MELITA.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Owing to the continual decrease in the native grasses, and the increasing demand for fodder, I decided last spring to try ensilage corn—a fodder very highly recommended by Mr. Bedford, of the Brandon Experimental Farm. I had a piece of old land sown to wheat the year before, but owing to the drought of spring that year the weeds choked out the wheat so badly that I did not cut, but pastured the grain. Last spring being so wet and backward, I did not get time to plow this land till end of May, when the bulk of the weed seeds were germinated. I plowed and harrowed down fine, and sowed 7 bushels Pearce's Early Prolific Ensilage corn on 15 acres, about the 2nd of June, plugging the seeder spouts so as to make the rows 2½ or 3 feet apart. A few days later I again harrowed to kill seeds that were germinating. About a week after the corn was up I ran the weeder over a couple of times, and then when the corn was 4 to 6 inches high I put a couple of boys to work the cultivator, one riding and going over it about three times till the corn was two or three feet high. I began to cut first week in September, with a McCormick open binder, just when the ears were becoming fit for table use, for which purpose we had sweet corn in abundance for two or three weeks.

The cutting was the most tedious of all, as I could only cut one row at a time one way against a brisk wind. If a few neighbors would combine and purchase a regular corn harvester it would greatly facilitate harvesting at a busy season. A crop of only a few acres could be successfully cut and tied by hand. At time of cutting the corn stood from 5 to 8½ feet high, which was dropped in windrows, stooked, and tied with binding cord. After freeze-up I may stack a portion by the stable, but will feed a large portion direct from the fields, drawing it as

required. During the early snow storm this fall I fed some of this corn, and find both cattle and horses very fond of it, and eat up stalks to the very butt. I have taken no means to ascertain the exact yield of this corn, but from a rough estimate place the yield at about two hundred tons from the fifteen acres; and though I had an immense yield of green-cut oats this year, I consider the corn the most profitable fodder crop I ever raised. I think that when possible it should be sown about the middle of May, which would enable a person to cut earlier and thus lessen the chances of being frozen in early autumn. I cut the corn quite low, which has left the ground fit for seeding next spring. Were the ground not so often cropped before, I would seed to wheat, but under present conditions will likely seed to barley or oats.

### The Weeder Does Good Work.

I enclose a snap shot of our weeder outfit, with which we have cultivated a considerable area twice over after the wheat was four inches high. These weeders are manufactured by D. G. Hallock, York, Pa., and are each 12 feet wide, two of them together (as seen in the illustration) making 24 feet, with which we can easily go over 50 acres per day.

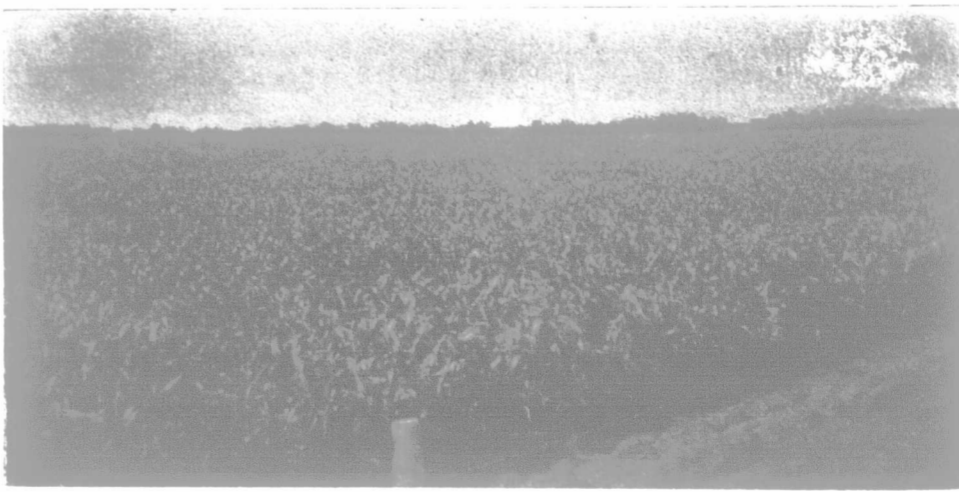


WEEDER, NEAR PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.

They are fastened together with a rope, not too rigid, horses being kept apart by a stick between halters. If properly used when weeds are very small, nearly all weeds can be destroyed. On the 18th of July the wheat thus cultivated was four feet high and nicely out in head. The field shown in photograph was 70 acres of first crop after summer-fallowing. It yielded 1800 bushels (nearly 26 bushels to the acre), and so far as shipped graded No. 1 hard. Another 70-acre field, cultivated with the weeder, yielded 20 bushels, while a larger field, that we thought did not require a weeder, yielded 17 bushels. Another piece of wheat, sown on land that had grown fodder corn last year, gave about 600 bushels from 20 acres. This had no cultivation after sowing, but was well cultivated during the summer of '98 and grew a superb stand of corn. We always have heavy crops of wheat after corn, and find it one of the most profitable ways of summer-fallowing. The ordinary summer-fallow sown with wheat, oats and barley, supplies excellent late summer pasture. We keep a dairy and sell milk in town and thus can utilize a large amount of grain fodder.

I do not pose as a sample farmer, but like the weeder and its work.  
Portage la Prairie.

W. F. B.



FIELD OF FODDER CORN IN SOUTH-WESTERN MANITOBA.

Maplehurst Farm, Melita, property of R. M. Graham.

### Hessian Fly in Eastern Manitoba.

In view of the very serious damage done by the Hessian fly in parts of Manitoba this season, the FARMER'S ADVOCATE submitted a few questions to some of the leading farmers in different parts of the Province, principally the Red River Valley, in order to gather as much information as possible, in the hope that something might be learned that would be of benefit should the attack of the Hessian fly be repeated another year. The questions submitted were:

1. What percentage of damage, if any, did you suffer from the Hessian fly?

2. Was its attack general throughout your crop?
  3. Did you notice any particular difference on old land or new, summer-fallow or stubble, fall or spring plowing, light or heavy land, high, rolling, or low and flat lands, or in early and late sowing?
  4. What reasons would you assign for any differences you may have noted?
  5. Have you seen any difference in the degree of injury to wheat and barley?
  6. In your district has the damage been general, or confined to certain farms or localities?
  7. Are any precautionary measures being taken?
- From the replies already to hand it will be seen that the injury has been pretty general in Eastern Manitoba. The only other point from which any information has been derived is from near Melita. It is evident that very few were aware of the presence of the fly until harvest time, and that little definite information has been acquired. Some of the letters are quoted below:

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In reply to your inquiries re damage by Hessian fly, I have to say:

That my wheat crop was seriously injured by the fly, from 8 to 10 per cent. at least of the whole crop being destroyed.

It attacked my wheat only, and I could see no difference on old land or new, fallow or stubble, fall or spring plowing, or in early or late sowing, though none of our sowing was very early. Possibly the late sowing, caused by the generally saturated condition of the ground from the heavy rains of last fall, has something to do with the prevalence of the pest in the eastern part of the Province.

Have not heard of any injury to barley.

The damage was not general throughout our township, yet a large percentage of our farmers suffered, more, I believe, than are aware of it, as I think to this cause must be ascribed the generally low returns from the wheat crop in this locality.

The wheat stubble has generally been plowed under, and the straw, where not already burned, will be before spring, as suggested by the ADVOCATE.

Your timely articles have awakened the farmers to the necessity of taking active measures to stamp out this pest.  
ROBT. FISHER,  
Springfield Municipality.

In our district, although the damage was very general, it was not serious. Where its ravages were worst was on the highest and most mellow portions of the fields. Neither the low clay land nor new land was affected at all.

It did not seem to make any difference whether the land was spring plowed, fall plowed or fallow, as all was affected much alike. As to any remedies, only fall plowing was done; no burning was done so far as I know.  
ED. ANDERSON,  
Springfield Municipality.

Mr. Thomas Lewis, also from Springfield Municipality, considers that about 20% damage was done; that the attack was not so bad on new land as on old; that on wheat late sown the damage was worst. Did not notice any damage except to wheat. Considers the damage general throughout the district.

I noticed more damage done to wheat on light land; the heavy land was affected also, but not to the same extent as the light. We had no summer-fallow wheat, and all our wheat land was fall plowed. I don't think there was any difference between late and early seeding; we had all our wheat in on May 13th. As far as I can learn the whole Mennonite reserve was affected by the fly, but more especially on light, sandy soil.  
A. WRIGHT,  
Rhineland Municipality.

A. Graham, of Dufferin Municipality, reports about 7% of damage. The attack was general throughout the crop. Late sowing suffered more, and he thinks this is likely attributable to the late arrival of the Hessian fly. Barley and wheat about equally injured. The damage has been general throughout the locality. The land, he adds, intended for wheat is nearly all plowed, but the stubble is still uncovered on land intended for oats and barley. Very little stubble has been burned. Farmers have been too busy to acquaint themselves with the nature of the fly or the precautionary measures recommended.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In regard to the Hessian fly, I may say that it is something I know nothing about, and if it had not been for the reports in the papers of damage done elsewhere, I would not have known that it had ever been in the country, and I have not heard that any of our neighbors suffered from it.

I noticed, though, in fields of my own that had wheat on them last year, some patches that appeared blighted from some cause or other. When the rest of the field was fully headed out these patches were still in the shot blade, and never came to the perfection that the rest did. I could not account for it, as the land was all right and the