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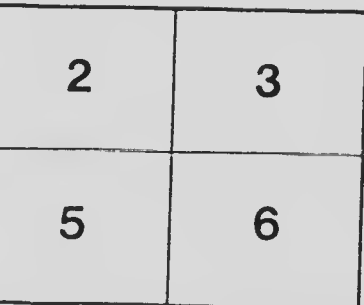
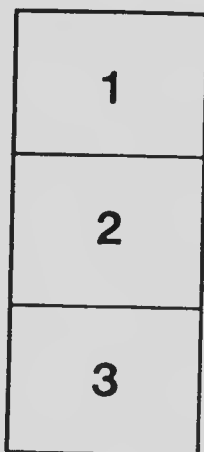
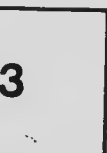
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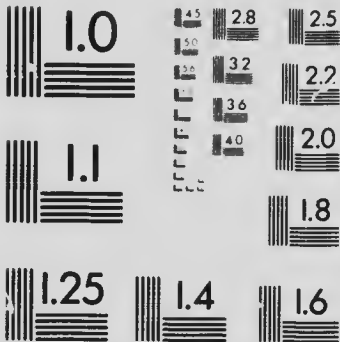
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ENSILAGE **IN** **1918**

LARGE SOUTHERN VARIETIES OF CORN **ONLY SORTS AVAILABLE**

RATHER MORE DIFFICULT TO GROW
BUT
LIKELY TO PROVE FAIRLY SATISFACTORY
IF
HANDLED CAREFULLY

SOME SUGGESTIONS OFFERED
SOME SUBSTITUTES AND SUPPLEMENTS DISCUSSED

CLOVER, ALFALFA, PEAS and OATS, VETCHES, SORGHUM

DOMINION EXPERIMENTAL FARMS

SPECIAL CIRCULAR No. 17

J. H. GRISDALE, B. AGR.

DIRECTOR AND ACTING DOMINION FIELD HUSBANDMAN

ENSILAGE IN 1918.

CORN.

ONTARIO CORN CROP A FAILURE IN 1917.

The corn crop in Ontario was a failure in 1917 so far as seed production was concerned. In the more northerly of the corn producing states to the south west of us, whence we usually draw a large proportion of our seed corn, the crop was abundant but untimely rains and early autumn frosts combined to render most of it unfit for seed.

EARLY VARIETIES NOT AVAILABLE FROM UNITED STATES.

In certain of the more easterly of the northern states the varieties we prefer did mature fairly well, but as all seed of this description is needed in the northern tier of corn states to enable them to grow corn for grain this year, the United States War Trade Board has prohibited the export of any part of this crop. **This unhappy combination of circumstances has resulted in the supply of seed corn of the varieties best suited for ensilage production in Canada being practically nil.**

LATE VARIETIES AVAILABLE FROM UNITED STATES.

The Seed Stocks Committee of the United States has, however, agreed to permit the export of a considerable quantity of seed corn of the late varieties grown in or south of Kansas, Missouri, Tennessee and Virginia, such as Red Cob Ensilage, Mammoth Southern White and Fodder Leaming.

SHOULD WE USE THESE LATE VARIETIES?

These late varieties, while not likely to grow into the crops suited to the making of the very best kind of ensilage, may be expected to give fairly satisfactory results as to quality and to be entirely up to expectations or hopes where quantity or yield per acre is concerned. **This, of course, is conditional on handling the crop in the way best suited to the production of good ensilage from such large-growing, late-maturing sorts.**

In this connection the following suggestions may prove helpful.

THE FIELD.

Where any choice may be exercised in locating the crop, high, dry, light soils, fairly rich in humus, had better be selected.

THE PLACE OF CORN IN THE ROTATION.

Using a clover sod with mixed barnyard manure at the rate of 15 to 20 tons to the acre ploughed under with a shallow furrow (4 to 4½ inches) and immediately rolled and double disked, all a few days before planting, will conduce greatly to, if not ensure, success.

PLANTING.

Work the land up thoroughly and plant as soon as soil is warm and mellow. **Corn of this type should be sown as early as possible but under no circumstances before the soil is well warmed up.** Plant in hills three feet apart each way, 4 to 6 kernels to the hill, or in rows three feet and a half apart with the corn 6 to 8 inches apart in the row. As a rule, plant on the flat but where soil is rather heavy or not particularly well drained, throwing up into low ridges will help warm things up and get the crop off to a little better start. Test the seed before planting.

CULTIVATION.

It is essential to provide such conditions as will compel rapid growth in the early stages. If slow in coming up, running over the field with the tilting harrow or a light drag will help. Frequent cultivation, thorough hoeing and even slight hilling will all help speed up growth in the early stages.

"PUTTING THE CORN BY".

Unless the season is very dry or the field very weedy it is usually advisable to "put the corn by" at a little earlier date in the case of these large varieties than where the smaller, earlier-maturing sorts are used. Stopping the cultivating somewhat early has the effect of hastening maturity and will usually result in a rather better quality of ensilage, although the weight of the crop going into the silo will be relatively reduced.

THE HARVEST.

This corn should be allowed to stand as late as possible. A slight touch of frost will not very injuriously affect the feeding value and will quite possibly improve the keeping qualities of the ensilage.

Some Notes on Other Crops that may be used to advantage either alone or in conjunction with corn for the making of ensilage.

CLOVER.

JUST AS VALUABLE FOR ENSILAGE AS FOR HAY.

Clover cut at the right stage and run through the cut box makes most excellent ensilage. If run through in conjunction with the corn it makes a mixture most nutritious and most palatable. It is in the best shape to put into the silo when the blossoms are just beginning to die.

A crop cut in mid-June or a little later, then again about the end of July, should be in just about right shape to cut when the corn is ready. If the season is dry then possibly only one cut will have been taken before corn ensilage time.

ALFALFA.

MAKES GOOD ENSILAGE WHEN MIXED WITH CORN.

It is usually difficult to cure alfalfa in September and the third cutting is, therefore, often made into rather poor hay. Running it green through the cut box along with the corn makes an exceedingly valuable ensilage and guarantees against any loss from exposure to weather or barn heating. It is worth trying.

PEAS AND OATS.

A GOOD "LAST CHANCE" CROP FOR ENSILAGE.

Where the land is heavy and corn slow in starting or when the spring is rather cold and corn backward an excellent plan to insure a plentiful supply of good ensilage is to sow a mixture of peas and oats to run through the cut box with the corn in September. This mixture (equal parts by weight of peas and oats), should be sown at the rate of about one hundred and eighty pounds (180 lbs.) to the acre. It should be sown not earlier than the middle of June and had better be in the ground before the first of July. It should be cut in the milk stage. It should be put through the cut box the same day it is mown. It had better be run through at the same time as the corn. If the corn is very green the mixed peas and oats might be allowed to stand a day or so longer. This would increase the dry matter and so lessen the tendency to acidity in the ensilage. Run bundles of corn through the cut box alternately with the sheaves or forkfuls of the peas-and-oats mixture.

VETCHES.

A SUBSTITUTE FOR PEAS.

Vetches might take the place of peas in the above mixture or they might replace part of the peas. They make an excellent ensilage but the seed is usually more expensive than peas and the crop is scarcely more valuable as a feed.

SORGHUM.

ANOTHER LATE-SEEDING, EARLY-CUTTING CROP.

Sorghum matures rather more rapidly than corn and if put in at about the same time or slightly later may be expected to yield a good tonnage of palatable ensilage. It may be mixed with the corn at cutting time. It does best on dry, warm soil. It needs a light dressing of barnyard manure. It should be sown in rows about three feet apart. It requires from 15 to 20 pounds of seed to the acre. It needs to be cultivated. Cut at same time as the corn.

It may be made into hay if not needed for the silo.



