

SELECTING SEED FOR CORN CROP

**Good Seed Increases Yield at
Same Expense thus Red-
ucing Production Cost**

NOW IS SELECTION TIME

**Quality, Early Maturity, and Trueness
to Type are Main Factors in Select-
ing the Most Profitable Seed.**

"Select your seed corn now," is advice as oft repeated at this season of the year as, "Do your Christmas shopping early," "Register now," and "Clean up," are at others. The great value of good seed is the motive

locality for which the seed is intended.

It is thus apparent that the necessity for proper selection of seed corn is of even more importance to Oregon growers than to those in states where the industry is well established. Methods of selecting, harvesting and storing the seed corn are explained by J. E. Larson, Extension Agronomist of the Agricultural College, as follows:

How To Do It.

On seed corn day a sack should be taken by a strap across the shoulder and the seed corn selections made. Be sure that the strap fitting across the shoulder is broad enough to avoid irritation, or it may have a tendency to cut the work short. In passing through the field one or two rows may be watched. Select ears of medium size, with husks indicating the stage of maturity well along, the ear

house it will be necessary to have shelves or racks for holding the seed. It must also be properly ventilated, so as to keep out all moist air and cold while drying. Hop houses and prune dryers might be altered for corn drying. After the corn is pretty well cured and dry, it may be boxed in slatted crates or narrow cribs. The only attention necessary then is to see that there is proper ventilation of air and that the temperature does not get too low. It is useless to spend a great deal of time selecting your seed corn and then allow it to be lost by poor storage. Corn that has shown a germination test of 90% or more will deteriorate by careless methods of storing.

A Time for Everything.

In most every line of work on the farm there is a right and a wrong time to do it. This is especially true of seed corn. It is not advisable to select the seed corn before it is well along toward maturity. The weather is usually hot and there is danger of mold. It is a very poor practice to wait until husking time and select from the wagon. No record is kept of the stalk from which the ear was produced, and all too often it is the large, late maturing ear that attracts one's attention. The worst practice of all, however, is to wait until planting time and then select from the crib.

With the up-to-date facilities and methods of selecting and caring for seed corn, one should not depend on too small an amount for seeding. Under any consideration, it would require at least eight bushels of selected and graded seed corn for every 40 acres to be planted. To provide against failure to get a stand and for replanting, at least 10 bushels should be selected for every 40 acres. If you have an especially good field of corn, a great deal more may be selected and sold at a good profit. There has never been a time when good seed corn, well selected and tested, would not bring a fancy price.

HOW TO USE PRESS BULLETIN.

The front page of the Press Bulletin is prepared for clipping. The reverse side is used for conveying agricultural news matter, although it is not expected this matter will be extensively used by Oregon weeklies, owing to its greater length. The matter contained on the reverse page is designed primarily for the benefit of farmers and others interested, who are furnished the Press Bulletin matter entire in the way of supplements. Because the printing for a very large number of readers may be done more economically from one plant than from many it is done at the College, editors using the supplement service getting the entire benefit of the reduced cost. The matter used on the reverse page is prepared in considerable detail, so that growers may readily follow the practices suggested by the articles. Cuts are used to make the matter still more plain and attrac-

tive. But while this was designed as the methods of use, it has been found in actual practice that much use is made of the supplement matter by newspapers in localities where the information is especially applicable. Entire stories are republished in full, and applications are frequently made for the cuts to be used in illustration. In fact it is not possible to supply these cuts as promptly as demands for them come in, but orders are booked and filled as rapidly as possible. The use of these cuts is free, the only obligation assumed by editors ordering them being their safe return to the College. Most of the cuts were prepared to illustrate matter printed on book paper, but by a little extra care in printing may be made to do very well on news stock. Editors are invited to send requests for cuts whenever they think they can use them to advantage, and whether the cuts desired have been used in the Press Bulletin or not they will be forwarded as soon as possible after orders are received. And all Oregon newspaper men are cordially invited to cooperate with the Press Bulletin in getting the character of information most needed by producers before them. Send in lists of subjects of greatest importance in your locality and the Press Bulletin will secure the desired information if it is to be had and publish the same to the extent of its capacity. That is what the Press Bulletin is for. Help make it effective for the advancement of scientific agriculture and thereby contribute to the agricultural development of your section. The increased wealth resulting will aid your community and aid you. Let us know what your farmers want in the way of better farming methods. [Editor Press Bulletin.]

SEEDS TESTED FREE

Farmers and other visitors at the State Fair having field and garden seeds that they would like to have tested are invited to bring them to the Oregon Agricultural College Exhibit and hand them to the expert in charge of seed testing demonstrations. The seed will be tested for purity and for germination and reports will be made to the growers submitting the seed as soon as possible after the close of the fair.

FIREBLIGHT FEATURED

One of the interesting features of the Plant Pathology Department at the State Fair will be an entire pear tree badly infected with fireblight. By means of inspecting carefully the characteristics of fireblight and the symptoms as they appear on the tree, growers will learn a great deal in regard to identifying fireblight, and from panels and charts, also on display, they may learn how to control it.



Oregon Corn Showing Some Ears at Selection Maturity.

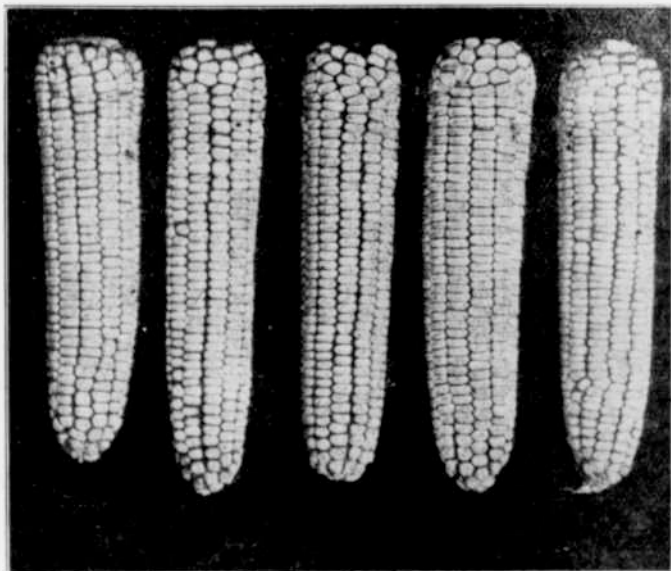
of the injunction to save seed corn at harvest time. Surveys have shown that the yield of corn in one county of a corn state would have been increased by the sum of \$21 an acre throughout the county, other things being equal, if correct selection of seed had been made. Since "other things were to have been equal" it is plain that the cost would have remained the same, so that the \$21 would have represented a net profit, minus only the additional cost of selection. It is safe to say that at least \$20 an acre would have been cleared by proper seed selection, displaying a profit of \$2000 for each of the 100 farmers whose 100-acre crop was surveyed. Additional harvest cost would have been something, but that is an item that growers delight to pay.

Since Oregon is not, with a very few exceptions, a natural corn state, and since by proper methods profitable corn crops can be grown, especially for hogging off, silage and a few other purposes, it is especially necessary to take advantage of all feasible means to increase the yield and lower the production cost. Good seed and acclimated seed are among the most important of these means and are entitled to a leading place in the program of corn production. Good seed can be secured by purchase, if one is willing and able to pay the price, but seed acclimated to Oregon conditions, especially the Willamette Valley, cannot be purchased at any price except as it was grown in the

hanging at a proper angle to avoid water running in and a shank not too large, but indicative of strength and vigor. At both ends of the field sacks or boxes should be placed to empty the corn into. When the husks are removed, ready for storing, part of the ears will necessarily have to be discarded and the final selections made just before planting time, when the corn is tested.

The care of the corn after selection has much to do with its growing qualities the following spring. In all events it should be hung for drying and curing. Racks for drying are also very satisfactory. The drying should be done in buildings where the circulation of air is good. A great many tests have been made in regard to the best place to store seed corn. Heated house attics, where the circulation of air is good, have been found to be the best places. Next to this comes the basement, where there is a heating plant installed. If corn is kept in a place where there is a good circulation of air until it dries thoroughly, the cold does not bother so much. When very hard freezing is likely to occur, there is some danger of injuring the vitality of the corn. The old method of storing in cellars, barns and overhead cribs, where live stock are allowed to run in the driveway, has been abandoned by up-to-date farmers and seed growers. In places where any moisture is likely to rise, seed corn will not keep.

Where large amounts of seed corn are to be kept, it is a good policy to build a drying house. In this drying



Some Fair Seed Corn Ears, but not the Best of College No 23, Dent.