Autumn Best Time to Select Seed Corn

Farmer Gathering His Own Seed Corn Should Make It a Special Task.

AUTUMN is the time to prepare for a profitable corn crop the following season. At this time the seed is most abundant and the very best can be obtained before it has been in any way reduced in vitality. Many let the opportunity pass, expecting to purchase their seed corn in the spring, but the Department of Agriculture's specialist in charge of corn investigations advises that the autumn is the best time to select good seed.

The best place for the farmer to obtain seed corn is from fields on his own farm, or in his neighborhood, that were planted with a variety which has generally proved most successful in that locality. Of course, if a community has an experienced and honest corn breeder on whom it may rely, the seed corn may be obtained from him.

The corn breeder who has demonstrated year after year the superiority of his corn will demand a special price for his superior seed. Such corn breeders are improving corn as cattle breeders have improved cattle. He has used special methods that farmers generally have not time to apply. Five dollars a bushel is not too much to pay and will be a profitable bargain for both parties.

What Is Good Seed Corn?

By far too many consider seed good simply because it will grow. To be first class, seed must be:

(1) Well adapted to the seasonal and soil conditions where it is to be planted.

(2) Grown on productive plants of a productive variety.

(3) Well matured, and preserved from ripening time till planting time in a manner that will retain its full vigor.

The importance of the three requirements just enumerated has been demonstrated experimentally by the Department's Office of Corn Investigations. The results given briefly, as enumerated, are as follows:

(1) For a series of five years, 12 well-bred varieties were tested in 10 Northern states, equivalent lots of seed being used in each state. Varieties that produced most in some states were among the poorest in others.

(2) Seed ears taken from the highest yielding rows of ear-to-row breeding plats have repeatedly produced better than seed ears taken from poorer yielding rows. Seed ears from the best producing stalks found in a general field produced more than seed ears taken without considering the productiveness of the parent stalks.

(3) Four bushels of ears were divided into two equal parts, one part being well taken care of and the other placed in a barn as corn is ordinarily cribbed. The well-preserved seed gave a yield on poor soil 12 per cent higher than the poorly preserved and 27 per cent higher on fertile soil, notwithstanding the fact that both lots of seed germinated equally well.

Seed Gathering Special Task.

At corn-ripening time drop all other business and select an abundance of seed corn. The process is too important to be conducted incidentally while husking. When selecting seed corn give the process your entire attention. Get the very best that is to be had and preserve it well, and your increased yields will return you more profit than any other work you can do on your farm.

The only proper way to select seed corn is from the stalks standing where they grew, as soon as ripe and before the first hard freeze.

As soon as the crop ripens, go through the field with seed-picking bags and husk the ears from the stalks that have produced the most corn without having any special advantages, such as space, moisture or fertility. Avoid the large ears on stalks standing singly with an unusual amount of space around them. Preference should be given the plants that have produced most heavily in competition with a full stand of less productive plants.

In all localities the inherent tendency of the plant to produce heavily of sound, dry, shelled corn is of most importance.

Late-maturing plants with ears which are heavy because of an excessive amount of sap should be ignored. Sappiness greatly increases the weight and is likely to destroy the quality. In many sections this fact is not sufficiently appreciated.

Care of Seed Corn.

The tendency for corn to produce suckers is hereditary. Other things being equal, seed should be taken from stalks that have no suckers.

The same day seed corn is gathered the husked ears should be put in a dry place where there is free circulation of air, and placed in such a manner that the ears do not touch each other. Good seed is often ruined because it is thought dry enough when gathered and the precaution mentioned is considered unnecessary. Many farmers believe that their autumns are so dry that such care is superfluous. Seed corn in every locality gathered at ripening time will be benefited by drying as suggested. If left in the husk long after ripening it may sprout or mildew during warm, wet weather or become infested with weevils.

The vitality of seed is often reduced by leaving it in a sack or in a pile for even a day after gathering. During warm weather, with some moisture in the cobs and kernels, the ears heat or mildew in a remarkably short time.

The Department of Agriculture has a bulletin that gives in detail the best manner of treatment for corn after it is gathered. The bulletin also describes how seed corn should be stored during the winter and tests of the germination of seed corn. The bulletin may be had free by those who request Farmers' Bulletin, No. 415, on "Seed Corn," from the Department's Division of Publications, Washington, D. C.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST FAIRS.

Sept. 21-26, Pendleton, Or., Umatilla County Fair.

Sept. 21-26, Burlington, Wash., Skagit County Fair.

Sept. 21-26, North Yakima, Wash., Washington State Fair.

Sept. 22-25, Eugene, Or., Lane County Fair.

Sept. 22-29, Toledo, Or., Lincoln County Fair.

Sept. 22-23, Fossil, Or., Wheeler County Fair.

Sept. 22-24, La Grande, Or., Union County Fair.

Sept. 22-26, Snohomish, Wash., Snohomish County Fair.

Sept. 22-26, Moscow, Idaho, Latah County Fair.

Sept. 23-26, Myrtle Point, Or., Coos and Curry County Fair

Sept. 23-25, Scio, Or., Linn County Fair.

Sept. 23-25, Hillsboro, Or., Washington County Fair.

Sept. 23-26, McMinnville, Or., Yamhill County Fair.

Sept. 23-26, Prineville, Or., Crook County Fair.

Sept. 23-25, The Dalles, Or., Wasco County Fair.

Sept. 24-26, Astoria, Or., Clatsop County Agricultural Fair.

Sept. 24-26, Pendleton, Or., the Round-Up.

Sept. 24-26, Klamath Falls, Or., Klamath County Fair.

Sept. 25-26, Milwaukie, Or., Milwaukie Grange No. 268.

Sept. 28-Act. 3, Salem, Or., Oregon State Fair.

Sept. 29-Oct. 2, Lewiston, Idaho, Lewiston-Clarkston Fair Association.

Sept. 29-Oct. 4, Puyallup, Wash., Western Washington Fair.

Oct. 1-3, Condon, Or., Gilliam County Fair.

Oct. 2-3, Sandy, Or., Sandy Grange Fair.

Oct. 5, Salt Lake City, Utah, Salt Lake (Utah) Fair.

Oct. 5-10, Colfax, Wash., Whitman County Fair.

Oct. 16-17, St. Johns, Wash., Harvest Carnival.

Oct. 26-Nov. 14, Portland, Or., Manufacturers' and Land Products Show.

Oct. 28-31, Tacoma, Wash., Washington Boys' and Girls' Agricultural and Industrial Contest.

Nov. 16-21, Spokane, Wash., Spokane National Apple Show.

Nov. 25-28, Walla Walla, Wash., O.-W. R. & N. Corn Show.

Nov. 30-Dec. 5, Lewiston, Idaho, Northwest Livestock Annual Show.

Dec. 7-12, Portland, Or., Pacific International Livestock Exposition, Union Stockyards.

Dec. 7-12, Portland, Or., Oregon Poultry and Pet Stock Show.

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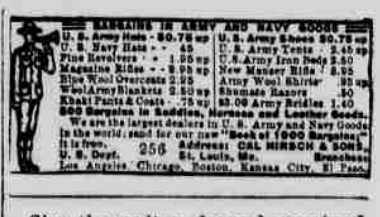
Lane county farmers are planning to import more Bob White quails in the hope that the birds may check the ravages of the mysterious bug now ruining the corn and bean crops in the vicinity of Eugene, Oregon.

Devere & Stevenson of Creswell, Ore., intend converting their ranch into a dairy farm. They have driven wells and installed gasoline engines for pumping water for irrigation purposes.



Give the poultry charcoal occasionally, it will assist in grinding the food and aid digestion.