

Growing Corn in the Northwest

BY C. L. SMITH,

O.-W. R. & N. Agriculturist.

mm EARLY every single corn plant in the Northwest was visited during the 1914 growing season by myself or my assistant, in most cases accompanied by the County Agriculturist. At the time of harvest the yields were certified to by two or more disinterested parties, and either the Superintendent of Schools or County Agricultural Agent, in the case of boys' contest, and the contestants generally were well satisfied with the correctness of weights and measures.

The following statement from the Malheur district, certified to by the master of Malheur County Pomona Grange and by a committee of three members of the Grange, is as exact in detail as it is possible to secure:

Contestant—Prize.	Field in mm.	Weight.	Acres.	Field per in.	Weight.	Acres.	Field per in.
E. L. Tate, sweepstake	8210	121.68	9				
Bert Robinson, first	7960	112.30	8				
G. W. Swigert, second	7515	108.70	19				
H. R. Hatch, third	7105	102.13	9				
Alex Wade	6905	98.97	16				
A. Bradney	6155	92.32	13				
Nyasa District.							
A. M. Johnson, first	7757	112.95	8				
F. C. Frye, second	7050	102.38	38				
W. B. Van Dyke, third	6913	98.75	3				
W. T. Conant	7150	102.14	23				
William Poltz	7790	107.11	8				
E. S. Butler	7760	107.37	12				
Cairo District.							
Henry Johnson, first	6350	94.14	3				
Fred Bender, second	5385	71.40	7				
L. D. Gordon, third	5510	77.50	8				
T. C. Johnson	5191	73.20	30				
D. E. Ramey	5575	78.34	11				
W. J. Jenkins	5354	75.30	8				

There were 12 others in the contest who had yields of from 46 to 90 bushels.

Without Fertilization.

These wonderful yields were made on land that had been six or more years in alfalfa without fertilization. It took an average of less than 70 pounds of corn to make a bushel of shelled corn. The average cost of growing and cribbing a bushel of corn was about 12 cents. The complete data regarding the method of growing, the yields, and the cost of production, etc., are tabulated and are a matter of record in the office of the County Agriculturist, where they may be consulted at any time.

The following story of Harvey R. Hatch is a sample of the reports received from growers:

Sample Report.

In presenting my report of the acre of corn entered in the Malheur Corn Contest, I have thought perhaps a brief history of this particular acre of growing would be of interest.

In its natural state Dame Nature had covered it with a dense growth of sagebrush, the soil being of a sandy nature, the winds of years had blown the surface up in small sand dunes or hillocks.

In the early Summer of 1893 the brush was cleared and the ground leveled with a slip scraper with its accompanied back aches and heart aches. Land was seeded to alfalfa September 1, 1893, remaining in alfalfa for 17 years, yielding on an average of 7½ tons per acre per year, or 127½ tons for this particular acre. In the Spring of 1911 the alfalfa sod was plowed and sown to wheat, yielding 67½ bushels per acre.

In the Spring of 1912 the ground was again plowed and sown to oats, which yielded 90 bushels per acre.

In the Spring of 1913 the ground was again plowed and sown to clover with oats as a nurse crop, oats yielding 65 bushels per acre, a stand of clover being secured on only a portion of the land, it was decided to plant same to corn in 1914.

The portion of the acre not having a stand of clover was given a dressing of barnyard manure applied with an International manure spreader in the early Spring.

On the 20th of April ground was irrigated, on April 25th the clover had grown to a height of about a foot and ground plowed seven inches deep, followed by double disking and harrowing with a spike-tooth harrow three times, leaving the soil in free condition for planting. Planted May 7, medium stand secured, seed not tested. Harrowed twice after planting.

When corn had become large enough to be injured by harrowing it was cultivated once with a horse 5-tooth cultivator, followed by two cultivators with two-horse 6-shovel cultivator.

Corn was then furrowed out with single shovel plow and irrigated when well tasseled out. When ground was dry enough to work, it was again cultivated with the one-horse cultivator, being too large for the two-horse cultivator. Then followed another furrowing out with a second irrigation when the ears had well formed; third irrigation given when kernels were in the milk, which completed the operating to harvest.

Plowing, \$2.50; disking, 90c; harrowing, \$1; manure, \$2; planting, 40c;

cultivating, \$2.50; furrowing for irrigation, 30c; cost of seed, 50c; gathering corn, \$5; estimated rent of land, \$10; estimated cost, \$25.10.

Number bushels corn harvested, 97.13, and number bushels seed corn, 5. Total bushels, 102.13. Market value, \$1.25 per hundred.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) HARVEY R. HATCH.

Forty boys with an average yield of over 90 bushels per acre indicates the possibilities of corn growing. Following is a report from one of them:

How I Grew My Crop of Corn.

By Adolphus Weathers, Touchet, Wash.

A Corn Club was organized of the boys around Touchet in March, 1914. Mr. Willis, the Superintendent of our school, perfected the organization. We signed up contracts for our seed corn and it was sent to us by Lou S. Smith, Assistant Agriculturist of the Oregon-Washington Railroad & Navigation Company.

A circular was sent to us by Mr. Smith instructing us how to select and test seed corn. The seed was tested by the agricultural class in a rag doll tester and showed a high percentage of vitality.

My acre of ground was good bottom land, topsoil about 16 inches deep with clay and sand subsoil. This had been planted to timothy hay the year before. It was land which had been cropped for many years.

The land was plowed in November, 1913, with a 14-inch walking plow to a depth of about four inches. Then it was disced twice and harrowed three times. I did not use any manure or other fertilizer, but the soil was well pulverized and in good condition for planting.

I planted my corn, which was of the yellow dent variety, on the first day of May, 1914. I planted the seed two feet apart in the rows and the rows three feet apart. When it was about 10 inches high I noticed that a hill here and there was dying. I examined it and found that wire worms were bothering it. Sometimes there would be as many as six worms in one stalk.

They only worked on it about a week, then I replanted it and all went well until it was nearly matured, when the beavers started in on it. They only worked at night. They would cut the corn off about six inches from the ground and drag it into the creek. I had a fairly good stand of corn and I cultivated it four times, using a one-horse five-shovel cultivator, cultivating three inches deep.

In good time the corn ripened and early in October I began husking it. Whenever I found a first-class ear I layed it aside for seed, choosing those ears which were well matured, well filled out at ends and which seemed to be true to type. This seed I hung up to dry in a warm, dry place for use next year.

Several of those interested in the Boys' Club work visited my corn field during the Summer as well as some of my friends and neighbors. Following is the cost of my acre of corn:

	Team hrs.	Self hrs.	
Plowing, disking and harrowing	9	9	\$ 2.50
Hoing acre of corn	19		1.50
Planting	1½	1½	.30
Cultivating acre of corn	24	24	3.50
Work in gathering corn		32	3.20
Estimated rent of land			5.00

Total cost of producing one acre of corn..... \$16.20

Estimated value of corn from acre: Number of bushels common corn made on my prize acre 68.21-70

Number of bushels seed corn 22.26-70

Total number of bushels on my prize acre..... 90.47-70

Market value of common corn at time of putting in crib, 85c..... \$58.05½

Market value of seed corn at that time at 30c..... 46.98

Market value of all my corn both common and seed... \$105.03½

Total profit on my acre corn \$8.83½

Cost of corn per bushel..... .178

(Signed) ADOLPHUS WEATHERS, Age 13 years.

Reports from two other boys will be printed next week.

Why Not Join Club of Top-Notchers?

THE readers of the Oregon-Washington-Idaho Farmer are invited to report to the secretary of the National Top-Notch Farmers' Club, which has its headquarters at Springfield, Illinois, the names of farmers who have obtained the high yields of produce that entitle them to membership. This means 100 or more bushels of corn or oats to the acre, 50 or more bushels of wheat to the acre, 400 or more bushels of potatoes

to the acre, or six or more tons of alfalfa hay per acre.

There is no expense attending membership in the National Top-Notch Farmers' Club.

Up to the present time 1347 men with records of growing more than 100 bushels of corn per acre have been reported to the Springfield office, six men have reported yields of over six tons of alfalfa hay per acre, 10 men have reported yields of more than 100 bushels of oats to the acre, 18 men have reported yields of over 400 bushels of potatoes to the acre, and 30 men have reported yields of 50 or more bushels of wheat to the acre.

Some Washington farmers with rights to membership are Lea Albin, of Prosser, with 104.5 bushels of corn to the acre; Pearl Highfill, of Prosser, with 106.4 bushels to the acre; Basil Sutton, of Prosser, with 107.6 bushels; C. E. Berry, of Walla Walla, with 134.4 bushels of corn per acre (prizewinner for biggest yield at Walla Walla show); Ed Starkey, of Prosser, with 114 bushels, and Grant McKee, of Selah, with 110 bushels of corn to the acre.

The Call of the Land.

It throbs through the noontide crushes Where the gaunt street canyons yawn, It thrills in the traffic's hushes In the dark before the dawn; Now vibrant and tense with pity, Now ringing with sharp command, Summoning souls from the city— Hark to the Call of the Land!

"I have fed your mouths from my bounty Since the days when you toiled alone And turned up my virgin meadows With your spades of wood and bone, I have watched your eyes grow restless I have seen you pause and part, Drawn from your ancient mother By the lure of the court and mart.

"Engulfed in the sordid city, And deaf to my warning cry, I have seen you reel and stumble, I have seen you faint and die; I have heard your sobs of anguish, I have heard your groans of pain, And I raise my voice to warn you, I reach you my arms again.

"Are you broken in heart and body? Are you shrunken in mind and soul? Hasten back to me, your mother, And my care will make you whole. Are you shaken in faith and discouraged? Are you buffeted, bruised and sore? Creep out to me from the gutters And I'll make you men once more.

"Come out to me in the open From the dark where you cinge and grope; Let your thews grow big with labor, While your hearts grow great with hope, You shall stand with your heads in the sunshine, You shall stand with your feet on the sod, And your faith in me shall lead you To a surer faith in God."

—Lewis R. Freeman.

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