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and The Cotton Plant.

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CORN GROWING TALKS.

IV.—How and When to Select Your Seed Corn.

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Messrs. Editors: The proper place to select seed corn is in the field at or just before gathering time and, other things being equal, select ears from those well developed and vigorous stalks that bear the largest amount of shelled corn per stalk on land that is about the average in fertility, or a little above, the farm on which it is proposed to grow the corn. Neither select from the very richest nor the very poorest spots in the field. The field selection method is the one we have used principally in the improvement of Coker's Prolific. Any method of selection that does not take the plant as a whole is not going to lead to the best results, for the stalk and leaves which are the factory of the plant determine the size and quality of the ears.

Which Ear of Two Ears to Select for Seed Purposes.

In the selection of seed corn from stalks bearing two or more ears per stalk, the selections should be made from those stalks that have the ears of a uniformly convenient height for gathering and of those ears on the stalks that possess the greatest number of desirable characteristics. Most all investigators in this country who have made careful field tests and kept accurate records with this cereal are pretty uniformly of the opinion that the top ear, being usually the best shaped and matured is the one, as a general rule, to be preferred for seed purposes. However, with our present knowledge on the subject we would not hesitate to select for seed all the ears of stalks bearing two and three ears per stalk, if the ears were all well shaped and matured, and the kernels were of the proper shape, color and vitality. It must be kept in mind that if it is wished to produce a variety that will bear more than one ear per stalk, selection should be made in the field each fall from stalks bearing two or more ears per stalk. What is meant by a two eared variety of corn is or should be, that when it is grown under the same conditions as some other variety, such as Holt's Strawberry, it will have more stalks bearing two ears than Holt's Strawberry, a one-eared variety. Other factors besides seed selection, play an important part in determining the yield of any variety of corn. They are fertility and physical condition of the soil, season, cultivation, etc. Notwithstanding these facts, some seedsmen advertise that they have certain varieties of corn that will bear two, three, four, five and even six and seven ears, as the case may be, per stalk, implying, if not stating positively, that the exploited va-

AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE VALUE OF FARM MACHINERY.



The illustration herewith shows the thirteen year old daughter of Mr. R. T. Mills, 2½ miles from Raleigh operating a Deere Disc Cultivator on her father's cotton farm last season. The hand whom Mr. Mills had employed for this work left, and the young lady came to her father's rescue. Had Mr. Mills depended on hand cultivation, he would have been compelled to abandon part of his crop.

Some of the best cotton in Wake County last year was that on a five-acre field on Mrs. R. S. Tucker's "Waverly Farm" which was never hoed at all, but cultivated exclusively with smoothing harrows and cultivators.

rieties with euphonious and "catchy" names, will do these wonderful and impossible things regardless of poverty of the soil and unfavorable soil and seasonal conditions. It is often wise to let your neighbor do the buying from the man that claims too much, and do your own purchasing from one that claims less and supplies seed that do more.

Uniformity in Height of Ears.

If all ears in a field are of approximately uniform height there is greater probability of complete fertilization of all the grains of the ears than would be the case if some of the ears were high up on the stalks, while others were comparatively near the ground. An extremely high ear tends to late maturity, while one very near the ground tends to ripen early, hence will not make, as a general rule, a very large growth. For the ears in a field to be completely fertilized or pollinated, the silks of the ears should be ready to receive the fallen grains (dust-like particles) from the tassels as soon as they are given off and disseminated by the wind.

Acclimation of Corn.

Other things being equal, it is not wise generally to import corn from

a distance, especially a different latitude, because it will not, as a general rule, yield satisfactory returns until it has become thoroughly acclimated, which usually requires from two to three or more years. We have had many striking instances of this fact in our tests of varieties of corn brought from the Northwestern States. None of these varieties have done very well with us, although they are the most prolific ones in the Northwest. This is the reason that it is urged in another part of this series of articles that the history of all seed corn purchased be ascertained from the dealer. Neither is it prudent to buy seed corn that was grown in the extreme South, for it, being accustomed to a longer growing period than we have in North Carolina, will be liable to be caught by frost and thereby give a diminished yield of immature grain, especially if fall comes early. The small yield of the Northwestern corns, on the other hand, being accustomed to a shorter growing period than we have is forced to maturity at an earlier period than is conducive to the largest yields in our climate.

White Versus Yellow Corns.

In our experiments, we have gotten the higher yields of shelled corn

per acre from the white than from the yellow varieties of corn. This greater yield may be due to the fact that the Southern people, being partial as a general rule, to white corns, have improved them more than they have the yellow varieties. From the standpoint of chemical composition, the yellow corns are no richer in feeding value than the white corns, which fact is contrary to a common belief prevalent in this and other States. The only difference in the two is that there is coloring matter present in the kernels of the yellow corn which is not found in the kernels of white varieties of corn.

Not Mr. Irwin.

It seems that some one forged the signature of Mr. J. M. Irwin, of Rutherford Co., N. C., sending us an inquiry which was answered in our issue of March 7th. The letter was not written by Mr. Irwin, he tells us; somebody should be feeling very mean and small for using his name in such fashion.

The six chair factories of Thomsville are making 3,000 chairs a day and a new factory will add 500 more to the output, making 91,000 a month and 1,092,000 a year.