

Fill It Up and Send It Back—That Blank on Page 2.

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Harvesting and Storing Seed Corn.

How Every Corn Grower May Grow, Select and Care for Seed Corn Which Will Increase His Yield From Twenty to One Hundred Per Cent.

Investigations show that much poor seed corn has resulted from a lack of care in the harvesting and storing. Too little attention has been given to these points by seedsmen and corn growers, and the result is that the corn growers suffer an enormous loss each year. The loss this year to the farmers of any one State from this source alone will amount to many thousands of dollars.

Corn should be allowed to mature thoroughly before being picked. Corn picked when immature does not con-

the corn has matured and before the general harvest and selecting the seed from the stalk. The plan of selecting seed at the time of general harvest is objectionable because of the fact that many times the work is done late in the season, and at this time, in the hurry, the care of the seed corn is apt to be neglected.

When seed corn is selected in the field the parent stalk can be studied. Experiments have shown this to be a very important part in the production of high-grade corn. The stalks from which seed ears are selected should be of medium size, strong at the base, tapering gradually to the tassel, and

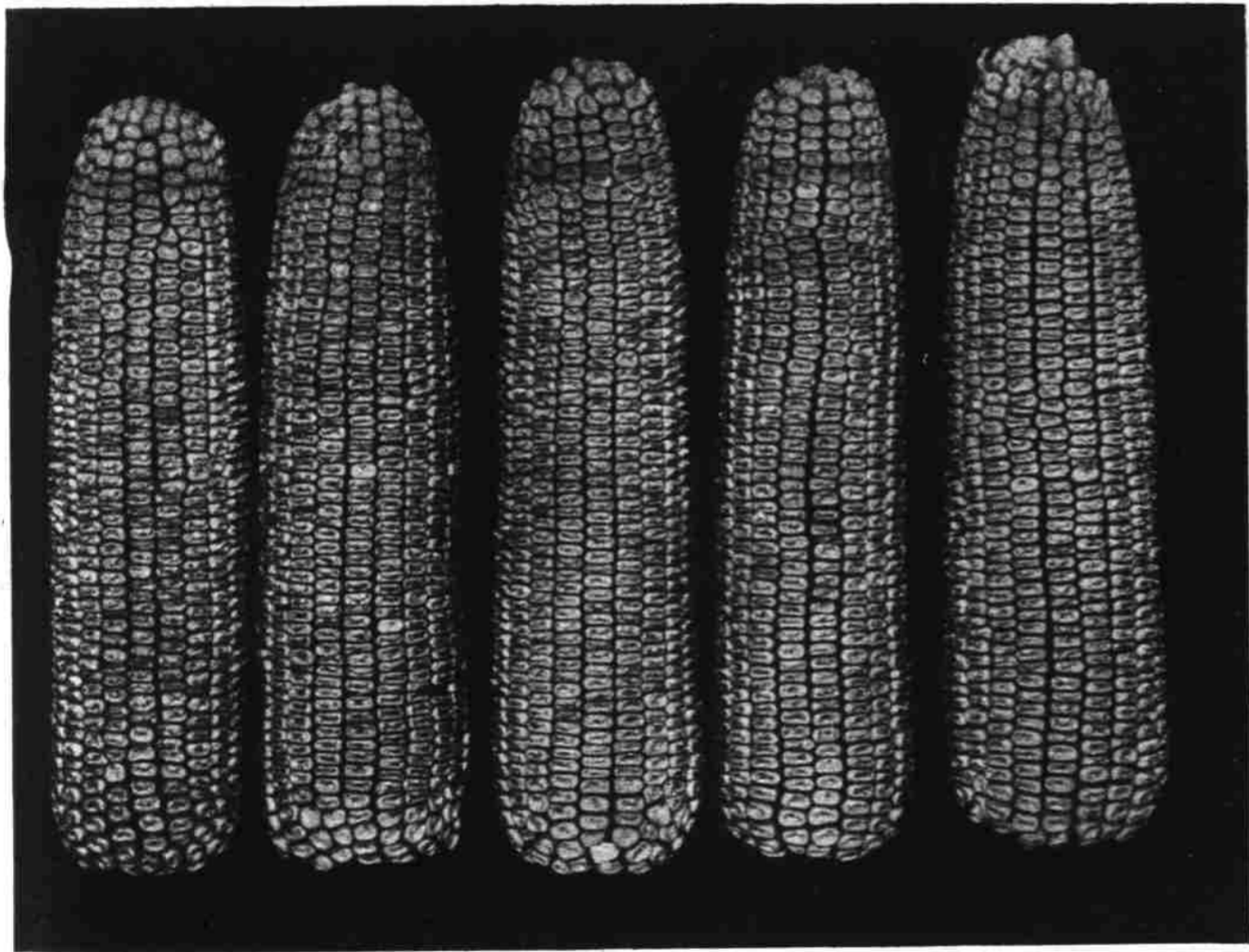


Fig. 1.—Some Good Seed Ears.

tain all the plant food intended for it, and consequently has the vitality weakened. When gathered before it is fully matured the seed is difficult to preserve. When dried in a warm place it is liable to sprout, and unless there is a good circulation of air it will become heated and mouldy. During the average season, heavy frosts may be expected during the last part of October and early part of November. At this time the corn on the stalk contains a high per cent of moisture and a few degrees of frost will injure the vitality. Therefore the best time to gather seed corn is when it is thoroughly matured and before the heavy frosts.

The methods of selecting seed corn from the load at the crib, from the crib after harvest, or in the spring are objectionable. Such practices as these do not allow a study of the stalks from which the ears come.

A plan to be recommended and a feasible one, is that of going through the field or "seed corn patch" after

should have a large leaf development, as the leaf is the laboratory of the plant. The stalk should also stand erect and be free from smut or insect attack. Stalks with suckers are objectionable. Always select ears of good size and quality which have straight rows of regular sized kernels and which most nearly represent the type desired. (Fig 1.) These ears should be at a convenient height of 4½ to 5 feet on the stalks and should be attached to the stalk by a shank medium in length and strength. The ear when matured should break over and hang with the tip downward, as shown on stalk 1, Fig. 2.

Ears in an upright position as ear on stalk 3, Fig 2, are objectionable owing to the fact that they are more or less subjected to the rains and hot sun, which injures the vitality. Experiments carried on at the Illinois Station show that seed from ears high on the stalk and in an upright position yielded almost ten bushels less corn per acre than did seed from ears



Fig. 2. Position of Ears on Stalks: Points to Consider in Selecting Seed Corn.

Stalk 1. Ear is placed about 4½ feet from ground and hangs in a desirable position.

Stalk 2. Ear is placed at a convenient height, but is held by a long, coarse shank, which is undesirable.

Stalk 3. Bears the ear about six and one-half feet from the ground and the ear is held in an upright position which makes this undesirable for seed purposes.

Stalk 4. Has several suckers attached, which make the ear an undesirable one for seed.

hanging in the natural position. Experiments also proved that the ears growing high on the stalk and in an upright position, when planted, gave stalks a very high per cent of which bore ears in a similar manner.

For the reasons that ears so located are inconvenient to harvest, have low vitality and low producing power, they should never be selected for seed.

Perhaps there is no way in which corn is injured more than through improper storing. Corn as it comes from the field contains a high per cent of moisture, and if subjected to a high or low temperature will be materially injured. Too many people overlook this fact, and the result is that we have large quantities of seed corn with low vitality.

Results of Germination Tests.

	No. ears tested.	Per cent. perfect.	Per cent. 4's.	Per cent. 3's.	Per cent. 2's.	Per cent. 1's.	Per cent. total failures.
Seed corn stored in crib	143	34.2	16	12	7	5.6	25.2
Seed corn stored in drying racks	308	98	2				

The above table gives the results of germination tests made at the Purdue Experiment Station. A test of five kernels from each individual ear was made.

The most critical time in the handling of seed corn is the first month after it has been picked. Owing to

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