

Growing of Seed Corn in Northwestern Minnesota

Every farmer should grow his own seed corn, because corn grown and adapted to his locality will be the best foundation stock. It is a false idea that corn will run out if grown for a long period of years in a given locality. There is no corn so well adapted to a given locality as that which has been grown there and given intelligent selection for a period of years. Therefore, every farmer should have his breeding plot, from which to select seed, for his larger fields the following season.

Select the foundation stock from your home locality, or better still, from your own corn, as this, after being home grown may naturally be expected to be best adapted to your own peculiar climate and soil conditions.

In selecting a variety, one must have a clearly defined type in mind and strive to produce this ideal. Select a medium sized ear, which shows breeding, vitality, and comes from an early maturing strain. It must be true to type, that is, the shape of the ear, the shape of the kernel, uniformity of size, as well as the arrangement of the rows, must be in compliance with your ideal.

Maturity should not be sacrificed for size. Large ears of excessive size, with a coarse pithy cob, in addition to chaffiness and sapiness of the kernels, are indications of weakness and slow maturity. Ears of this kind should be avoided, while ears having a small cob with large plump kernels, showing a large germ, open on the surface, deep, showing plenty of nutriment for immediate use for the germination plantlet, well-filled butts and tips, straight rows with the least space between the rows and the kernels in the row; and with the highest per cent of shelled corn to the cob, are all factors of strong germinating power and yield. The degree with which ears bear these points will indicate their producing powers.

In selecting the seed plot, location and conditions of the soil are determining factors. The soil of the plot should be under the same soil conditions as the ordinary crop. Plants fixed and adapted to one soil cannot be expected to give equally good results under different soil conditions.

The plot should be located sufficiently far from adjoining corn fields to prevent the pollen from these to blow over and pollinize the corn in the seed plots.

The seed bed should be plowed in the fall, rather deep, manured and disced in the spring. The harrow should fol-