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IMPORTANT STEPS IN GROWING CORN

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1. Terrace the land if it is subject to washing, and in west Texas, if there is any water run-off.

2. Plant on soil rich in organic matter. The organic matter increases the water-holding capacity of the soil and the availability of the plant food.

3. Prepare the land well, thereby making a good home for the plants, providing a greater feeding area, and a better supply of water.

4. Plant only well selected seed, of a variety adapted to the locality.

5. In the timbered section of east Texas, plant the corn in six foot rows with cow peas, velvet, or soy beans in the middles. These legumes should not be planted until the corn is about two feet high, because planting them earlier often reduces the yield of corn. In other sections it is usually better to plant in three foot rows.

6. Fertilize with commercial fertilizer, or manure or with both, on the sandy, and sandy loam soils, of east, north, central, and south Texas.

7. Thin the corn to about 18 inches in six foot rows, and 36 inches in 3 foot rows. On rich, moist, bottom land corn may be left closer.

8. After the first cultivation, give only shallow cultivation, two to three inches deep, often enough to destroy weeds. Yields have been decidedly reduced by cutting many important feeder roots when cultivating too deep.

9. Select the seed corn in the field, from stocky, medium height stalks, having good ears which droop down. It is important that the ears be selected only from stalks in a uniform stand.

10. Store the seed corn in a dry place, where rats cannot destroy it.

11. Treat the corn for weevils, if necessary, in a tight bin or other container. For feed corn, use one pound of highlife for 100 cu. feet of space for 24 hours. For seed corn, it is better to use only one-half lb. of highlife for 100 cu. feet and then thoroughly ventilate the container after 24 hours, so as not to destroy the germination. A second treatment is often necessary to kill any weevils that may have hatched from eggs that were not destroyed. Keep fire away as highlife is very inflammable.

12. Sow a cover and grazing crop in the early fall, wherever adapted consisting of a mixture of (1) oats, rye and hairy vetch, or (2) oats, barley, and hairy vetch, to be turned under in the spring for improving the soil fertility.

We recommend for corn from 200 to 300 lbs. of commercial fertilizer, on the average East Texas soil, and about 200 lbs. per acre on the sandy lands in the dryer sections. The amount will depend on the type and physical condition of the soil, and the amount of organic matter it contains. On extra good types of soil that are drought-resistant, the amounts may be increased. The fertilizer (either factory mixed, or home mixed) should consist of approximately a 1-3-1 ratio, such as 4-10-2, or 4-12-4. Land with a good clay subsoil does not require as much potash as the deeper sandy soils.

Corn may also frequently use to advantage a side dressing of nitrogen fertilizer. If a side dressing is used, apply 150 to 200 lbs. per acre of a ready-mixed or home-mixed fertilizer before planting, and 100 lbs. of a good grade nitrogen fertilizer as a side dressing, when the corn is knee high (about 45 days after planting).

Where corn follows cotton that received several hundred pounds of a mixed fertilizer per acre, it is often sufficient to apply only the nitrogen fertilizer as a side dressing, at the rate of 100 lbs. per acre.

The usual method of applying fertilizer before planting where the land has been bedded, is to apply it in the middles about a week before planting, and then re-bed on top of it. When ready to plant, the bed should be dragged down so that the seed when planted, will be about 2 inches above the fertilizer. The side dressing should be made 6 to 8 inches from the plants, either by hand or with a distributor.