

POOR SEED MEANS FAILURE

Don't Select Your Seed Corn
From the Crib—You Can't
Tell What You Are
Getting.

WE MUST STUDY THE STALK

When You Gather Seed Corn, Study
the Root System, Foliage, Stalk,
Husk and Tassel—Pick Ears of Me-
dium Height on Stalk With Short
Shank.

By P. G. HOLDEN, Agricultural Ex-
tension Department International
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The character of the stalk should
be taken into consideration in select-
ing the seed.

There are almost as many things to
be considered in connection with the
stalk as have been discussed with re-
gard to the ear; though it will be im-
possible to give to the subject the
space it deserves.

There are the root system; the char-
acter of the foliage, and its distribu-
tion on the stalk; the disposition to
sucker and to set several ears; the
length of the shank, the time of pollen-
ation as compared with silking; sus-
ceptibility to disease such as rust,
smut and mold; tendency to break
over at the roots, below the ear and
above the ear; premature ripening,
leaving the ear light and chaffy; the
position of the ear on the stalk, high,
medium or low; erect or drooping;
the way the ear is covered with the
husks and the comparative maturity
of the different stalks and ears, etc.

The great majority of corn raisers
do not take these things into consid-
eration. They simply save the occa-
sional good ear throughout the husk-
ing season or pick them from the crib
at planting time.

We must know the stalk upon which
the ear grew, whether the stalk was
the only one in the hill or one of
three stalks.

How Is This to Be Done?

There is just one practical way to
do it, and that is to go into the field
in the fall, before the nights are cold
enough to injure the vitality of the
corn, and select the best ears, pro-
vided they come from strong, healthy,
desirable stalks. We simply must come
to this method of selecting our seed
corn.

Strong Stalks.

The stalk from which an ear is se-
lected should be strong, vigorous and
healthy, indicating ability to win in
the competition and to overcome un-
favorable conditions. We should dis-
criminate against spindling stalks, es-
pecially those that are small from the
ear to the ground. Particularly should
we avoid those stalks which have
shown their weakness by breaking
over. The ear is likely to rest on the
ground and gather moisture and mold.

Height of Ear.

Select ears from as nearly the same
height and position on the stalk as pos-
sible. The higher growing ears will
tend to make the corn later each year.

If we go to the other extreme we
will soon get an early, small, slim,
stinty ear, with shallow kernels and
open furrows between the rows and
the yield will be reduced.

Drooping or Erect Ears.

An ear that droops its nose slightly
as the husk begins to turn yellow and
open is preferable to one that stands
erect, allowing the water to run down
under the husks and stand at the butt
of the ear, which of course is unde-
sirable. The drooping ears are gener-
ally a little earlier than the erect
ones.

Short Shank Desirable.

The ear should be set on a short
shank close to the stalk. Ears on long
shanks are more likely to be broken
off and are a nuisance to handle, es-
pecially if the corn is cut and shocked.

Freedom From Disease.

The stalks should be free from dis-
ease such as smut, rust, mold, etc.
I have seen cases where nearly every
stalk coming from a certain ear was
affected, and so badly affected that
there was not a good ear on any of
the 800 stalks.

Foliage, Its Character and Distribu-
tion.

A thin, sparse foliage is never desir-
able. It carries with it nothing but
weakness. In the corn belt where the
ear is the most valuable part of the
plant, we should secure the kind of
stalk and foliage which will give the
greatest profit in grain. This will not
be secured by heavy foliage. The best
results will be between the two ex-
tremes.

Two Ears to the Stalk Not Desirable.

Except possibly in the case of flint
varieties and the early northern dent
varieties, which are grown for the
fodder, it will be advisable to select
seed from one-ear stalks.

Covering of the Ear With Husks.

A heavy mass of husks on an ear or
the projection of the husks beyond the
tip of the ear into a tight point are ob-
jectionable; they prevent the corn
from drying and make it more difficult
to husk. The husks should just fairly
cover the tip of the ear and should
loosen or open at time of ripening, to
allow circulation of air in order to dry
out the corn.

Lice.

Lice on the husks will cause the
husks to turn yellow prematurely. In
selecting seed do not mistake thisyel-
low condition for early ripening.

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FORGING TO THE FRONT

The territory known as the Northwest, including northern and western Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Wyoming and Montana, did not develop as early as the territory farther south, including southern Nebraska, and Kansas, but in recent years has been coming to the front on a basis of permanent development. This development is giving a wonderful impetus to the up-building of business in the cities to which this country is tributary. This is especially true of the cities having live stock markets, as this territory is fast becoming one of the best stock raising countries in the world. In the above is found one of the reasons why Sioux City, the "Home Market of the Northwest," has been forging to the front so rapidly in recent years. Since the first of this year, Sioux City has advanced from sixth place to fifth place among the primary live stock markets of this country, and is still growing at a remarkable rate.

Another cause of the growth of the Sioux City live stock market is the enterprise of the men in charge of the stock yards and engaged in the live stock commission business. One proof of this is the fact that they believe in publicity. Stockmen are invited to read the advertisements of the firms represented on these two pages, and remember them when shipping to Sioux City.

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