

**How far
should
you go
with corn
plant
productions?**

One of the best informed men in the world on the subject of corn plant populations and the many factors which contribute to resultant yields is Mr. G. H. Stringfield, research agronomist for DeKalb Seed Corn.

What is a thick corn stand? Stringfield's answer was that any finished stand of 12,000 plants per acre or more in the southern part of the corn belt is heavy corn. In the north, 16,000 or more is considered high. You find quite a number of finished stands of 20,000 or more. He said that the great majority of farmers plant at less than 16,000. He further explained that plants are smaller in the north and therefore more are needed to fill an acre. Fewer large, leafy plants in the south provide as much shading effect as larger counts of smaller plants up north.

"String" says that any farmer who really knows his farm . . . has been growing corn on it for years . . . has a good chance of being able to increase his stands without running into trouble. He says such a farmer can almost produce the size crop he desires by proper seed corn selection, proper rates and ratios of applied fertilizer, and high populations. Of course, nature must cooperate.

"The successful farmer isn't bashful about the use of fertilizer. It takes certain amounts of basic elements to produce certain amounts of corn. It's that simple . . . low plant food level . . . low yields."

One of the rules of thumb he gave as a guide to plant populations in a given field was: "An optimum stand should produce



G. H. Stringfield is now doing research agronomy work with the DeKalb Agricultural Association, Inc., DeKalb, Illinois. He completed his undergraduate study at the University of Nebraska in 1924. He took his graduate work at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Ohio.

air dry ears that average a half a pound or slightly more."

String listed environment factors and genetic factors which should be considered. Environmental factors include: Soil productivity — texture, slope and drainage along with sufficient nutrients; weather and climate — the higher the rainfall, the higher the plant populations (North and Eastern Iowa up to 9,500 plants per acre and parts of Indiana up to 20,000); day length — shorter seasons up north. Hybrids require higher populations to utilize each acre.

Listed among genetic factors are shade tolerance — some varieties are much more tolerant. Stringfield feels shading can cut yields by a third. Barrenness can also be linked with shading feels Stringfield. Stalk quality is a genetic factor.

A resistance to stalk rots as well as a good strong rind is a protection against a tangled mess at harvest time. A good root anchor can also prevent lodging and the greater genetic tendency toward prolificacy, the lower the incidence of barrenness.

Another set of conditions that have led to serious trouble is heavy stands and low fertility.



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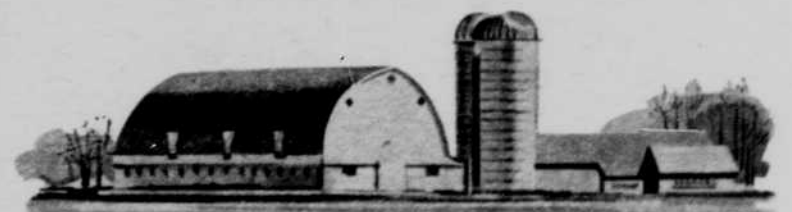


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