

SILAGE CORN.

Small Ears Should at Least Approach the Roasting Stage.

Through a better knowledge of the best methods of siloing farmers have come to feel that it is safe to plant corn for the silo quite late in the season, writes a farmer of Maine in American Agriculturist. Some farmers in northern Vermont have largely overcome the difficulty of securing good silage from immature corn by cutting the crop and allowing it to wilt for several days before placing in the silo. Through this practice they overcome the danger of early frosts, and by the drying out of a part of the water content they secure a lighter colored, less acid silage. This practice may be extended this season.

The White Sanford Variety.

Silage corn requires the same cultural conditions as field corn—the same liberal fertilization, the same thorough plowing and careful cultivation, deep at first to maintain a mellow condition of the soil, shallow later in the season to avoid cutting the corn roots and to maintain a dust mulch. In this region the White Sanford corn is the favorite for the silo. It is a rank, strong growing corn, thrives well on somewhat close clay soil and in ordinary seasons matures sufficiently for good silage. I have ripened it sufficiently for seed. For best results it should be planted in drills three to three and one-half feet apart, according to the fertility of the soil, and there should be about two growing stalks to each foot in the drill. Good farm manure plowed under the greensward at the rate of twenty spreader loads per acre supplemented with 450 pounds of high grade commercial fertilizer will produce a yield large enough on land not too badly run out.

I have never succeeded in raising satisfactory crops of silage corn on commercial fertilizers alone. I find the barn manure carries it through the latter part of the season better and if finely and well spread and completely mixed with the soil aids in carrying it through a drought.

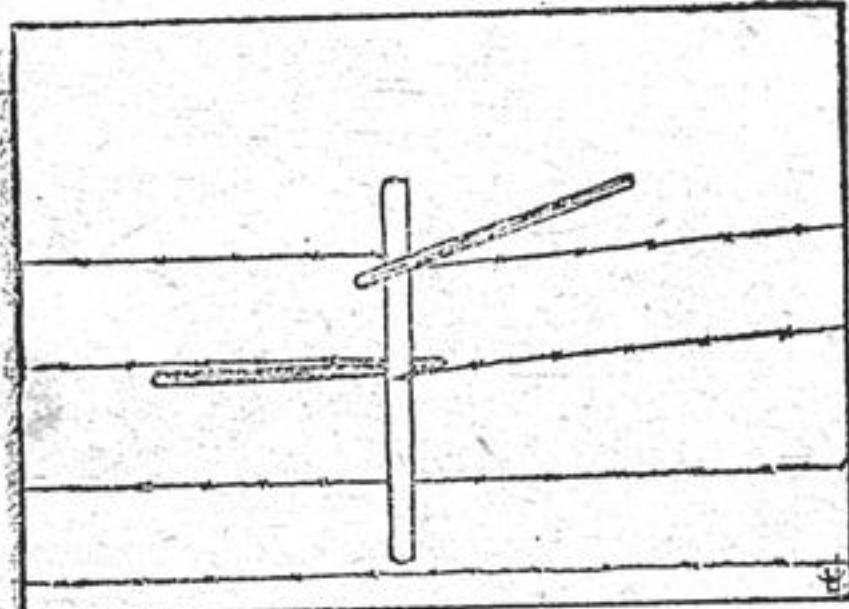
In Condition For Cutting.

For best silage the crop should fairly mature. The smaller ears should at least approach the roasting stage, and if some of the most mature are well glazed no harm will come from it. When corn can be secured in this condition and is cut in half inch lengths into a silo, the silo filled, slowly and without tramping, a light colored, sweet silage will result. Such silage will not fill the barn with unpleasant odors—in fact, no one will know that there is a silo in the barn except at feeding time, and then the odor is slight and very pleasant.

A WIRE FENCE.

Convenient Means of Tightening Up Slack Wire.

In building a wire fence a great many people use small stays between the posts. I find these stays are very handy when it comes to tightening up slack wire, says a writer in Iowa Homestead. My plan is to take a strong stick, make a loop in the wire and twist it around the upright stake



TO TIGHTEN THE WIRE.

until the wire is as taut as desirable. The end of the stick then is either stapled or wired to the wire in the fence. Any time after that that the wire becomes loose the stick may be given another twist around the stay, and your wire is tightened with but little trouble. With a stay every now and then in a fence the wires may be kept taut with very little trouble if this plan is put into practice.

Sowing Grass Seed.

The proper time to sow grass seed is in July or the first part of August. If the land was plowed to a good depth in the spring, the plowing may be dispensed with in July; a good cutaway wheel harrow and a smoothing harrow or a good bush will get the land in good condition for the seed. The land should be harrowed and rolled repeatedly, so that the soil will be fine and compact as it is possible to get it, says a writer in New England Homestead. Ten loads of good stable manure, 300 pounds of sulphate of potash and 500 pounds slag or Thomas phosphate will do at the time of seeding down.

Two Fine Strawberries.

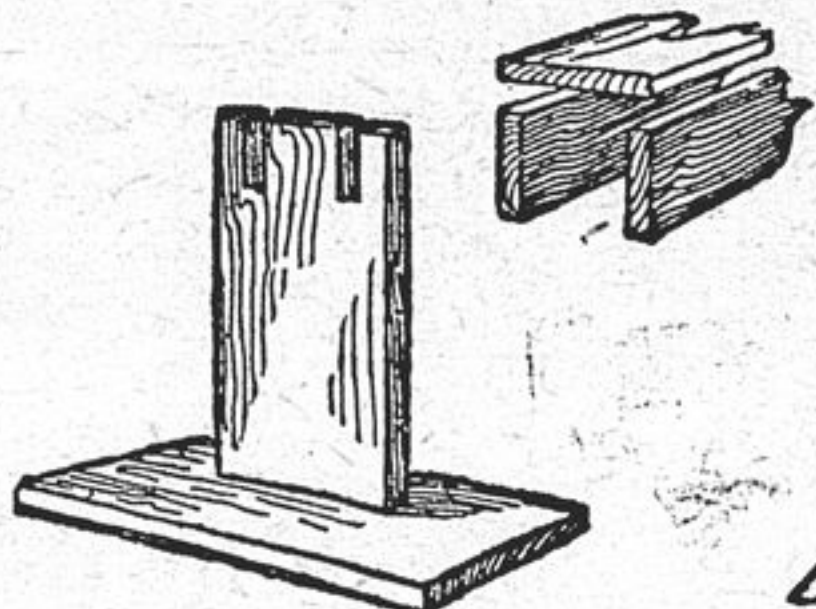
One of the best of the newer strawberries is the Senator Dunlap, says an Ohio man in American Cultivator. It is a very early kind and keeps in bearing long enough to be classed also as a midseason variety. It is as reliable and productive as the Haverland and has a good color and pleasant flavor. The Dunlap and a good late kind like the Granville make a fine team for the strawberry grower. An important practical point is to put on straw enough for mulch and winter protection to last until the bearing season and keep the berries clean.

Farm and Garden

BOARD DRAINS.

As a Substitute For Tile They Will Last Many Years.

Drainage is a live subject with the farmers in the northwest, and many would be glad to do a great deal more of it if they were in a financial condition to do so. While tile drains are considered the best, board drains will give very good service for a number of years and will enable the farmer to

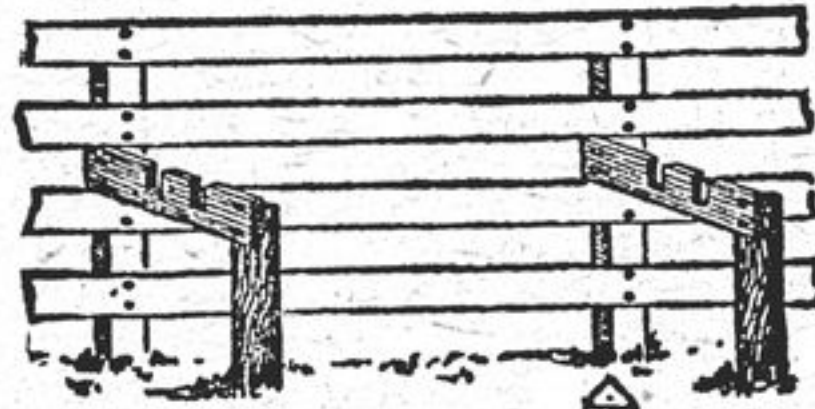


TO MAKE WOODEN DRAINS—FIG. I.

raise better crops and thus provide himself with the means for buying tile later on. Board drains, especially where the ground is so wet that they are kept constantly saturated with water, will last for years. Farmers living in the districts where timber is cheap will find that such drains will answer the purpose very well without much expense. Such drains have been known to last twenty or twenty-five years, at which time they seemed to be in just as good a state of preservation as on the day they were put in.

To make wooden drains it usually requires two men, one to hold the boards in place and the other to nail them together. This method of making board drains can be improved upon by the use of a standard. This consists of an upright board three feet high, having notches cut into it six inches apart, one inch wide and several inches deep to hold the boards firmly. The boards are laid in the notches, when the top board can be quickly and evenly nailed on.

Another method consists of two posts driven into the ground about three



TO MAKE WOODEN DRAINS—FIG. II.

feet from the fence, with notched boards nailed across from each post to the fence. With such a rig as this troughs can be quickly and easily made by one man alone.—Farmer.

The Berry Patch.

Beware of the red rust in the black-cap or blackberry patch. When it appears at once dig out and burn the infected plant.

Remove the old raspberry canes as soon as they have fruited; also remove weak, superfluous new ones. Burn all such cuttings at once.

Continue to cultivate and hoe the strawberry plants set last spring. When enough runners are secured in each row, cut off all others just as if they were weeds.

Beware of exposing blackberries to the sun after they are picked. Sunlight soon turns the black, shiny fruit to a rusty, dull, unpleasant looking red. Get the berries into packing shed or crate as soon as possible and then into a cool cellar until shipping time.

Going to set some strawberries in August or September? We prefer spring set beds, but if you must set in the fall use pot grown plants and begin to prepare the ground now. Plow it early, so that it will have a chance to settle before planting time. Harrow or rake it often to keep down weeds and conserve moisture. Then the bed will be in fine shape to receive the plants.—Farm Journal.

Shield Budding.

In commercial practice budding is performed in the north from early July until the middle of September. In the southern states it usually begins in June. As a rule, apples and pears are budded before peaches. This is due to the fact that peach stocks are nearly always budded the same season the pits are planted, and the operation must be delayed until the stocks are large enough to be worked. Most other fruit stocks, especially apples and pears, are not budded until two years after the seeds are sown.—Bailey.

The Most Profitable Horse.

The most profitable horse to have on the farm is the good brood mare. She will raise a colt each year, and it will sell for a snug sum in the fall, remarks American Agriculturist. With a little extra care the mare will do as much work as any horse. This is the kind that the average farmer wants and is the kind he should get for his own benefit. Have at least one good brood mare on the farm; raise your own horses and some to sell.

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