

## MICHIGAN EXPERIMENT STATION.

Press Bulletin No. 18.

### SOME NOTES ON SEED CORN.

The Michigan Experiment Station has tested many ears of seed corn in the spring of 1907. The per cent of ears with low germination is so large as to warrant the printing of caution to farmers against planting untested seed. The best that can be done at present in the way of seed testing is to take five kernels from different parts of the ear and plant them in a square which can be recognized as belonging to that ear. Shallow boxes fully an inch deep are filled with sand and divided into squares an inch and a half by an inch and a half, using twine stretched across the top of the box to mark the divisions. Keep the soil wet and warm. Allow as many kernels as will to germinate, then grow for three or four days to compare the vigor. Reject all ears which do not show an even growth of the young plants and a germination of at least four out of the five kernels tested.

A trial was made on the college farm of several varieties of corn to determine their relative yields on plots of equal size. The varieties with the yields of corn and of stalks are given below.

	Corn	Stalks	Ear corn per acre
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Silver King .....	926	537	4,824
Hathaway .....	910	475	4,741
White Cap .....	796	520	4,147
Mortgage Lifter .....	1,022	642	5,324
Lake's Select .....	977	594	5,090
Renk Bros. ....	945	500	4,923
Nyenhuis .....	734	450	3,824
90 Day Flint .....	633	594	3,297
Golden Ideal .....	890	478	4,637

Where ears of corn were separately shelled and the product of each ear planted in a single row until the shelled corn from 108 ears had been planted in 108 rows, great variations in yield were observed. The same number of hills were planted in each row. The highest yield was 267 lbs., of which 232 lbs. were merchantable ears. One of the smallest yields was 157 lbs., of which 102 lbs. were merchantable ears. Note that one ear when shelled gave seed which yielded less than half as much merchantable corn as did an equal number of hills planted with the kernels from another ear and yet there were no outward characteristics to determine by inspection which ear would be most productive.

Thirty-six seed ears from the three highest yielding rows were compared with 15 seed ears from three of the lowest yielding rows. Thirty of the first selection stood the germination test and 10 of the lowest yielding stood the test. A wise farmer will plant a few ears, an ear to the row, and will keep track of the yields of each, in order to find out from which he should select his seed ears for the next year.

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*Director.*