

CONNECTICUT

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

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REGARDING CONNECTICUT SWEET-CORN SEED

By E. H. Jenkins, Director.

The following brief statements answer questions frequently asked of the Station by those who are unfamiliar with the Connecticut situation and who are interested in getting sound seed.

The eating quality of sweet corn grown from Connecticut seed is generally recognized as superior.

For two years prior to 1921 the quality of our seed suffered from unusual weather conditions during growth, harvest and curing.

The 1921 crop is unusually well grown, well cured and sound, the weather conditions during late summer and fall having been exceptionally favorable.

REGARDING INSECTS. The European corn borer has never been found in the State, though the Entomologist has carefully scouted for it and has examined every suspected specimen sent by growers.

In New England it has only appeared in eastern Massachusetts and in a small area in New Hampshire, against which areas strict quarantine is enforced. It has invaded Ontario, the Lake borders of New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio, and threatens the corn belt.

(OVER)

The corn ear-worm has never, in our experience of 28 years, been a serious pest in Connecticut until this year, when it has done considerable damage in some sections; much less, however, than in the western states, where the loss has been enormous.

Careful count, just made on several seed crops in this State, every ear being counted which had the least sign of the worm's work, showed that much less than 10 percent. of the ears were touched.

Owing to the lateness of the attack and the early ripening of the ears, very little invasion of mold or rot has followed.

This insect is common on cotton in the south, and is more common in the middle west and near the cotton belt than in New England.

DISEASES OF CORN. These are apparently more common on sweet corn than on other varieties.

Some persist in the soil, attacking the stalks, causing stunted growth, barren and weak stalks ("fall-downs"), and thus lessen yield. A secondary infection appears on the ears, causing red or black discoloration and wholly destroying the kernels or damaging or destroying their vitality.

These soil infections seem to be very common where wheat or rye is usually grown, and on such soils sound seed cannot be expected to produce a disease-free crop.

But the work which has been done in the last two years by the Station in co-operation with certain growers and which it is hoped to extend this year, indicates that on our soils the use of vigorous disease-free seed obtained by careful selection and breeding gives crops, under normal weather conditions, which are of superior quality as regards vigor and freedom from disease.