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LATE SUMMER CARE OF THE

CORN CROP

by

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A. CORN VS. WEEDS:

"WEEDS ARE MUCH BETTER FORAGERS THAN MOST CULTIVATED CROPS AND IT WOULD BE JUST AS REASONABLE TO EXPECT A LAMB TO THRIVE AMONG A BUNCH OF HOGS AS TO EXPECT CORN TO COMPETE WITH WEEDS".  
Illinois Bul. 181.

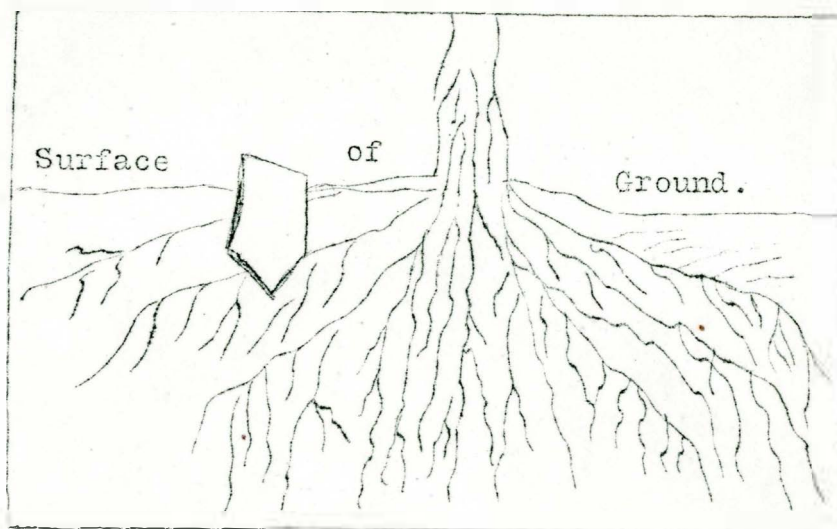
Weeds always reduce the yield of corn. It is impossible to grow a crop of weeds and a crop of corn on the same ground at the same time. A large part of killing weeds may be accomplished before the planting is done. This is accomplished by thorough preparation of the ground and by frequent harrowing before planting. The type of cultivator that will get certain kinds of weeds will not be so effective in the destruction of all kinds of weeds. For instance morning glory or bindweed cannot be cleaned out of a corn field with the shovel type of cultivator. The knife or sweep type cultivator is the best to use in a case of this kind, if blades are sharp enough to cut off the roots and not drag the plants. The disk type may also be used but is not as effective as the sweep or knife-blade type in good working order.

Generally speaking, the old 'standby' cultivator is the shovel type. By careful adjustments the six-shovel cultivator can be made to do very good work throughout the season.

B. THE LATE CULTIVATION OF CORN.

The late cultivations as with the early, are mainly for the purposes of killing weeds and conserving the moisture. Shallow cultivation will accomplish both of these purposes. When the corn is large enough to shade the ground thoroughly,

or nearly so, there is little loss of water from the soil by evaporation. Also at this time, the corn roots almost completely occupy the upper soil.



Root system of corn plant late in summer being cut by cultivator shovel when run too deep.

Deep cultivation close to the plants late in the season will decrease the yield. When corn plants wilt in the hot sun soon after cultivation, it is a sign that the cultivator is being run too deep.

The frequency of cultivation depends largely upon:

- a. Character of soil.
- b. Condition of seed bed at planting time.
- c. Weather conditions during growing season.

CULTIVATE OFTEN ENOUGH -

To keep surface of soil mellow, and  
Free from weeds.

No cultivations beyond this are necessary and only increase cost of production.

### C. CORN AND THE NEXT CROP.

Many farmers boast of having some good corn ground for a certain crop. What makes it good corn ground? Nothing but good care the previous summer. Probably a farmer wishes to put winter wheat on corn ground in the fall but if so the ground should be clean and free from weeds. That means that late summer cultivation is the all-important preparation. If alfalfa is to be sown the following spring, clean corn ground makes a good place to start alfalfa because the soil will be in good condition, firm, fairly free from weeds and will have a good supply of moisture.