

CIRCULAR NO. 56.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Agricultural Experiment Station.

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CORN EXPERIMENTS.
DETASSELING CORN.

It is desired that you coöperate with the Agricultural Experiment Station in investigations concerning the effect of detasseling corn.

It has been claimed that when the stalks of corn are detasseled the yield is thereby increased. As this is a question which is of great importance to the farmers of the state, and upon which there is little exact information, the Experiment Station asks your assistance in an effort to obtain more information regarding this matter. The following plan for the experiment is very simple. Care should be taken that the detasseling is attended to at the proper time, which is just as the tassel begins to peep out of the upper leaf. At this time the tassel can easily be removed with little injury to the stalk, and little of the substance of the plant will have gone into the formation of the tassel. The field for the experiment should be gone over at least three times in one week when the corn is tasseling. The tassels do not all come out at one time, so by going over the field every other day for one week most of the tassels will be removed. If the tassels begin to come out early in the week the detasseling can be done Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

Select an average place in the corn field, preferably in one corner of the field. Count off 112 hills long and 32 rows wide. Detassel the first two rows and leave the next two rows. Repeat this operation of detasseling two rows and leaving two until there is a total of 16 rows detasseled and 16 rows not detasseled, as shown in the following diagram:

112 HILLS LONG.

Detasseled	Two rows	Yield _____	} 32 Rows
Not detasseled	Two rows	Yield _____	
Detasseled	Two rows	Yield _____	
Not detasseled	Two rows	Yield _____	
Detasseled	Two rows	Yield _____	
Not detasseled	Two rows	Yield _____	
Detasseled	Two rows	Yield _____	
Not detasseled	Two rows	Yield _____	
Detasseled	Two rows	Yield _____	
Not detasseled	Two rows	Yield _____	
Detasseled	Two rows	Yield _____	
Not detasseled	Two rows	Yield _____	
Detasseled	Two rows	Yield _____	
Not detasseled	Two rows	Yield _____	
Detasseled	Two rows	Yield _____	

Each set of two rows can be harvested and weighed separately; in this way securing comparative yields from the detasseled and the not detasseled rows.

An important matter is the time when the tassels and silks appear on the stalks. This process seems to vary with the variety, season, and conditions of soil and climate. To get full data on this point we desire your coöperation in this work. Will you please note the time when the tassels first come out of the upper leaf of the stalk, and when the silks appear at the end of the ear? To do this work systematically so that the data will be exact, pick out 10 average hills in the field, tie a tag to each of the stalks and so named or numbered that they can be easily identified at any time. The stalks should be examined every day for two weeks at the proper season.

Date of tassel appearing
on stalk.

Date of silk appearing
on ear.

Hill 1	Stalk 1	_____	_____
	Stalk 2	_____	_____
	Stalk 3	_____	_____
Hill 2	Stalk 1	_____	_____
	Stalk 2	_____	_____
	Stalk 3	_____	_____
Hill 3	Stalk 1	_____	_____
	Stalk 2	_____	_____
	Stalk 3	_____	_____
Hill 4	Stalk 1	_____	_____
	Stalk 2	_____	_____
	Stalk 3	_____	_____
Hill 5	Stalk 1	_____	_____
	Stalk 2	_____	_____
	Stalk 3	_____	_____
Hill 6	Stalk 1	_____	_____
	Stalk 2	_____	_____
	Stalk 3	_____	_____
Hill 7	Stalk 1	_____	_____
	Stalk 2	_____	_____
	Stalk 3	_____	_____
Hill 8	Stalk 1	_____	_____
	Stalk 2	_____	_____
	Stalk 3	_____	_____
Hill 9	Stalk 1	_____	_____
	Stalk 2	_____	_____
	Stalk 3	_____	_____
Hill 10	Stalk 1	_____	_____
	Stalk 2	_____	_____
	Stalk 3	_____	_____

Name of variety _____

Date of detasseling { 1st _____
2nd _____
3rd _____

Name _____

Postoffice _____

County _____

When the detasseling and observations are completed fill out the blanks, and return to the Agricultural Experiment Station, Urbana, Ill.

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