

The mere fact of making sure that the first 6 ft. or so of material—the section of the stack which constitutes the barometer in silage-making—is of the right heat, or, to be exact, that the correct degree of temperature (130° Fahr.) has been secured, is all that needs special attention. The remainder of the operation is so simple that any farmer can carry it out successfully by following simple printed instructions.

Grasses or fodder plants for silage should be cut when they are in the most succulent stage, or when approaching full bloom. Maize should be allowed to stand until the cob is formed and is in its dough stage. Crops for silage should not be allowed to wilt in the sun, but carting and stacking should proceed as soon as possible after cutting. To commence, cut six swaths from the boundary-fence. This will provide the first layer for the stack. After clearing up this, the work can be laid out so that each day a sufficient quantity, and a quick run to the stack, will be provided. There are two kinds of silage—viz., green and brown. For green silage the temperature required is from 130° to 140° Fahr.; for brown silage the temperature may be allowed to rise to 160°, but this form of silage is not recommended. Should a greater heat be attained the silage would be of little value. If the temperature does not reach 120° the product would be what is known as “sour” silage, which, though wholesome, is not usually considered so satisfactory as “sweet” silage, especially when intended for fodder for milking-stock. A cubic foot of silage should weigh from 45 lb. to 56 lb.

The silage will be greatly improved by the addition of salt, in the proportion of 1½ lb. to 1 ton of the green material.

#### THE SITE.

The location of the stack should be level, but at the same time should provide for effective drainage. It should be at some distance from the milking-shed, as, in the event of any portion of the stack being of a sour nature, the resulting odour will not affect the flavour of the milk. If available, a layer of straw 12 in. deep, or of rushes, should be provided for a foundation, but timber should never be used for the purpose, as this will admit the air, whereas the secret of silage-making is the exclusion of air. The stack should be set out square if of a small size—say, up to 14 ft. by 14 ft. for a 30-ton stack—but should be a little longer than the width if of a larger size, a stack containing from 50 to 60 tons occupying a space of 16 ft. by 18 ft., and larger stacks slightly longer than the width in about the same proportion.