

## Select Your Maize Seed Carefully and Insure

## Against a Poor Crop

— By —

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A good, strong maize plant of the Excelsior variety showing the pronounced drooping tendency of the cob while still only half-grown. Ultimately, this cob will point directly to the ground and will suffer little or no damage through water gaining access to the grain while awaiting harvesting.



Another strong plant, showing all the desirable characteristics which should be looked for when selecting maize for seed. Although the cobs are only half-grown, they are already showing a strong tendency to droop over from the stack of the plant. The photograph was taken a few days after the crop had experienced a severe buffeting by storm.



A maize plant of considerably less vigour than those illustrated above, showing evidence of storm damage and late development of cob. It is worthy of note that all three photographs of individual plants were secured almost adjacent to one another, thus illustrating the differences that are evident within the one variety.

FOR the majority of growers in the maize-producing districts the period embracing the months of late April and May is usually the best time to select seed for the following season's crop, for at this stage the desirable characteristics of maize in general and of specific varieties in particular can generally be seen at their best. Admittedly, it is not the common practice to select seed maize in this way, but as it is well recognised that good crops of other species of plants depend as much upon the use of high-quality seed as any other factor, it is surely not too much to imagine that maize crops, also, are largely influenced by the type of seed sown.

Good varieties and strains of seed are definitely superior to inferior types in the production of crops, pastures, etc., as has been abundantly demonstrated during recent years through

the agency of the Government Certification Scheme as applied to potatoes, grasses, and clovers. Before the introduction of this scheme farmers were compelled to purchase seed for their pastures and potato crops more or less blindly and without any guarantee of its trueness to type, yield capabilities, and freedom from disease. The natural