

# MAIZE GROWING IN NORTH AUCKLAND

Renewed interest has been displayed in growing cob-maize during the past three years in the North Auckland district, particularly for carrying store pigs through the winter

in a thriving condition. In this article the author discusses suitable soils, methods of sowing, rates of seeding, choice of varieties, fertilisers and harvesting.

MAIZE was one of the first crops introduced into North Auckland by the early missionaries. Half a century after its introduction the total area devoted to this crop was 643 acres. In 1911, twenty-five years later, the area sown had increased to 2151 acres. Unfortunately, the next next quarter of a century saw only 603 acres sown, and of this acreage, 213 acres were saved for grain. During the past three years renewed interest has been displayed in growing cob-maize, particularly for carrying store pigs through the winter in a thriving condition. Thus, in the 1939-40 season the crop amounted to 1060 acres, of which 355 acres were harvested for grain.



Above.—The maize crop in North Auckland.

Left. — Pigs wintered on maize and meat-meal. A group of pigs at the Dargaville Demonstration Farm. The photo was taken in August when, after three months' feeding, each pig had consumed 3 bushels of maize and 45 lb. of meat-meal.

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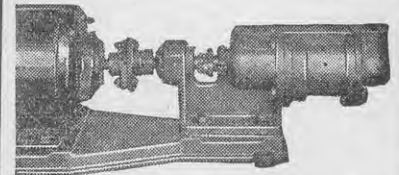
## Scope in North Auckland

Although certain areas in North Auckland are harvested for the sale of the grain, it cannot be claimed that maize is as certain a commercial crop as in the East Coast districts. Climatic conditions are somewhat less reliable,

and the late spring rains maintain the heavy alluvial soils in a wet condition, delaying and reducing much of the essential preparatory cultivation. A wet summer results in intensified competition from weeds and paspalum, while autumn rains and the almost complete absence of frosts during the late autumn prevent complete ripening of



Typical alluvial flats in the north. Such country will grow excellent maize crops.



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