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DWARF MILO (*Andropogon sorghum*).

This is a selected leafy strain of milo, and under ordinary conditions should grow from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet in height. Milo is characterized by its rather compact, obovate, or oblong heads, the individual grains of which are roundish and somewhat flattened in shape and yellowish in color. The heads are not so uniformly erect as those of kafir, a considerable percentage being goosenecked. Milo has marked ability to withstand drought. It is adapted to the Panhandle of Texas, western Oklahoma, western Kansas, southeastern Colorado, and many parts of New Mexico, Arizona, and California. Grain yields ranging from 30 to 40 bushels per acre may be expected. The fodder yield is ordinarily not so heavy as that of kafir on similar land.

Planting.—Milo should be planted from two to four weeks later than Indian corn, except in regions troubled with the sorghum midge, where very early plantings are recommended. The usual method of planting is in listed furrows, as this method places the roots deep in the soil and aids the plant to withstand drought. Milo is usually planted in cultivated rows 36 to 44 inches apart, or about the same as Indian corn. When planting in this manner 5 to 8 pounds of clean seed will be sufficient for an acre. With well-prepared ground and seed of good germination the lower rate of seeding is advised. Thick stands produce finer stalks and smaller heads, but will be liable to greater injury from drought than the comparatively thin stands.

Cultivation.—Dwarf milo should be cultivated much the same as Indian corn. It is usually best to cultivate two or three times with the harrow while the plants are small, but as soon as sufficient growth is made the crop should be given a fairly deep and thorough cultivation. Two or three subsequent and shallower cultivations are desirable to conserve moisture. Care should be used to have these later cultivations shallow, in order to avoid breaking many feeding roots.

Harvesting.—If harvested for both grain and fodder the crop should be cut in the late dough stage. Cutting with a corn binder and shocking in the field is the least expensive method. A corn binder is the most practical method of harvesting if the crop is to be utilized as silage. If grown solely for the grain yield, it should be allowed to stand until the stems at the base of the head are dry. If the heads are cut by hand from the standing stalks the remainder of the crop can be utilized for pasture.

Feeding.—Careful tests have shown that milo makes good silage. When cut in the dough stage the bundle fodder is good roughage. Ten pounds of milo grain is considered equal to 9 of Indian corn for feeding purposes.

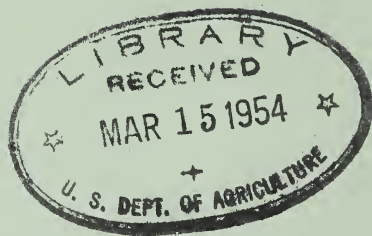
Seed selection.—With a few exceptions, home-grown seed is always best. It is therefore essential that each farmer select and keep his own seed from year to year. The best time to make selections is in the field as soon as the earlier heads are mature. Dwarf, leafy plants without side branches and with little tendency to stool should be selected. The stalks should bear from 14 to 16 leaves and be as sweet and juicy as possible. Select a head that is entirely out of the boot, and whenever possible choose an erect head. Select a uniform lot of heads well shaped and well filled at both butt and tip. In this seed selection be careful to avoid hybrids. The exceedingly large heads are generally the result of hybridization or of some local variation in stand or soil conditions. Selections should be made 100 yards or more from any other variety of sorghum, as they all cross freely. By careful selection and the growing of your own seed, yields can be materially increased.

Suggestions.—This dwarf milo will be found equal to or better than standard milo for grain production. The ease with which it can be harvested makes it the more desirable of the two crops. The forage or silage yield, however, will not be as great as that of standard milo. It is suggested that seedlings be made so as to place the plants 4, 8, 12, and 16 inches apart in the row, thus giving an opportunity for each grower to decide for himself the proper rate of planting in his locality. Different dates of seeding might also be tried.

G. E. THOMPSON,
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