

INTRODUCTION

Maize is the most productive of all cereal crops which are grown under cultivation. It is a valuable stock food as well as being used for human consumption, and also for a large variety of industrial uses.

Originally maize was a crop of the New World but is now grown over the whole of the Tropics, and also many temperate regions. At present the United States of America are the main producers.

Maize is not grown as a commercial crop to any great extent at the College New Farm, but many experiments regarding the cultivation of maize have been carried out since the farm opened in 1949.

Much research work has been done in the major maize producing areas in an attempt to increase the yield and quality of grain. Emphasis has been laid on the effect of spacing and manuring. It has been proved almost conclusively that nitrogen is essential for the good healthy growth of the plants, but this is partly influenced by the soil and climatic conditions.

In the U. S. A. the time and method of applying the nitrogen has been considered. No definite conclusions have been drawn as the results varied according to the conditions under which the experiments were carried out.

This experiment was designed to investigate the effect of time and rate of application of ammonium sulphate on the yield of maize. It is part of a series, and it is hoped that some indications for further experiments, regarding the successful growing of maize in Trinidad will be obtained.