

## Growth Development & Yield of Maize as affected by Time of Planting.

Maize is a crop which might form one of the staple foods for most of the native population of the British West Indies. Such being the case it is surprising to find that little or none is grown locally.

There seem to be several causes for this state of affairs among the most important of which are that practically all the available agricultural land of the British West Indian Islands is utilised in raising more profitable crops such as Sugar and Cocoa; that maize as a food crop had never been scientifically investigated to ascertain whether the climate and soil conditions are suitable to its growth in the islands and finally that the price is so very low that the native prefers to raise either a crop which, if it does not fail, will be more profitable to his family or his pocket.

If maize could be established satisfactorily the benefit would be quickly realised. As a crop it needs very little cultivation, grows rapidly and produces bulky food rich in carbohydrates and at the same time a very high yield of straw for manurial purposes - points very well suited to native requirements.

In view of these facts we have carried out an experiment with the object of investigating a few of the important factors concerned in maize growing in Trinidad.

The primary considerations are the growth, development and yield of maize as affected by the time of planting; by this we hope to be able to suggest the best time to plant in order to obtain maximum yield.

This may be considered as the more practical side of the experiment while the theoretical includes details such as appearance of cobs and tassels, number of cobs per plant, width of core and number of rows; size and weight of seeds.

For the sake of clearness we have divided this dissertation into sections each of which deals with different details.

The following is a list of the sections and the order in which they will be considered:-