

A. Ear bags for pollination. For the past few years we have used a 35 lb. white parchment ear bag with much more satisfactory results than the old glassine bag. The size is 2 1/2 x 9 1/8" (one flat side is 9 7/8" to give a lip) made up with waterproof glue (test every new shipment that is received, as we still get occasional shipments made up with non-water proof glue in spite of the specifications). The longer bag stays on much better and leaves more room for the growing ear and the silks as they push out. It has a tendency to flop or bend over after being first put on but after the first dew or rain the material stiffens and when straightened up usually remains that way. A bag an inch shorter may be a little better. Here where we have heavy rains accompanied by strong winds and occasional hail, the glassine bags were very unsatisfactory. The one advantage of the glassine bag is the clear view it affords of the silks. Although the parchment bag is only semi-transparent, when in doubt the worker can always check the quantity of silks by pinching the bag between his fingers at the ear tip.

For a long period of time the corn breeding project here has used for covering ear shoots a larger 35 lb. parchment bag, 4" x 12" with side gussets; with 1" overlap and a double strip of waterproof glue at top and side seams. These are placed over the young ears and held in place around the stalk with a paper clip or staple. It is placed over the ear earlier and needs no further attention until pollination.

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