



About Corn

Corn is widely cultivated throughout the world and is the most widely grown grain crop throughout the Americas. With its tall leafy stalks and sweet kernels, corn has become a staple food in many cuisines and its total production surpasses wheat and rice.

When to Plant

Sow corn seeds outdoors approximately 2 weeks after the last spring frost date. It's important to plant as early as possible, since corn requires a fairly long growing period with warm weather. If you live in a region with a shorter growing season, choose an early variety that will mature before the first fall frost. Soil temperature should be 60-65 degrees F for best germination.

Where to Plant

Plant in full sun in highly fertile, well-drained soil with a pH of 6.0-6.8. Sweet corn prefers rich soil with high nitrogen and plenty of moisture. Soil should be amended prior to planting with aged manure or rich compost. An ideal spot for corn seedlings would be in the same plot that yielded a healthy bean or pea crop the year before -- these crops contribute the needed nitrogen

How to Plant

Corn is wind pollinated and, especially for smaller plots, should be planted in blocks, rather than long rows. Plant seeds about 1-2" deep with 2-3 seeds per hole. Plantings should be approximately 12-15" apart with rows 30-36" apart. Shorter varieties can be planted closer, and sweeter varieties should be planted shallower.

Caring for Corn

Water plots well after planting and keep consistently moist through germination and harvest. As weather becomes warmer, increase watering. If more than one seed sprouts from a single planting, thin to the strongest sprout. Fertilize with a nitrogen rich food when plants are about 12-18" tall and carefully pull weeds around plant to avoid them taking moisture and nutrients from your crop. Weed control in corn plots is best achieved by a thick mulching. Ears will be ready to harvest approximately 3 weeks after silk is visible and has become brown. Another way to check, pull down the leaves a bit to reveal the tip of the cob. The corn kernels should be firm and milky when cut open. To harvest, bend and pull ear downward from stalk with a twisting motion. Consume or freeze immediately for best quality.