

OTHER - Birds eating seed, gardener's impatience (picking too soon).

CULTURAL

One cultural problem is poor kernel development - failure to fill out to the tip - caused by dry weather during the silking periods, planting too close, poor fertility (especially potassium deficiency), and too few rows in block resulting in poor pollination. Another problem is lodging (falling over) from too much nitrogen.

HARVESTING AND STORAGE

Days to maturity - 60 - 90 (after planting)

HARVEST - Harvest when husks are still green, silks dry and brown, kernels full size and yellow or white color to the tip of the ear. Check at milky stage. Use thumbnail to puncture a kernel. If the liquid is clear, the corn is immature; if milky, it's ready; and if no sap, you're too late. Cover unharvested ears checked by this method with a paper bag to prevent insect or bird damage. Experienced gardeners can feel the outside of the husk and tell when the cob has filled out. Corn matures 17 - 24 days after the first silk strands appear. It does so more quickly in hot weather than in cooler.

Approximate Yields - (per 10 ft. row)
5 - 10 pounds or about 10 - 20 ears.

Amount to Raise Per Person - 20 - 30 lbs or about 40 - 60 ears.

STORAGE - Refrigerate immediately to prevent sugars from turning to starch; cold (32°F), moist (95% RH) conditions; will keep 4 - 8 days, but standard varieties will become starchy after a few days.

PRESERVATION - Frozen on or off cob; canned.

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SWEET CORN PRODUCTION



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SWEET CORN PRODUCTION

ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Sweet corn is a tender annual crop that grows well in deep, well drained rich loamy soils. It prefers on average, moist sunny conditions with temperatures up to 60°F - 75°F.

SPACING

WR (within rows) 8 - 12 inches
BR (between rows) 24 - 36 inches

Plant no less than 3 rows side by side to ensure good pollination.

FERTILIZER

When plants are 12 - 18 inches tall, side dress with 1 - 1½ oz. (2 - 2½ tbsp) of ammonium nitrate per 10ft of row.

CULTURAL PRACTICES

Sweet corn varieties differ greatly in time to maturity and quality. Most varieties planted are hybrids which have been bred for greater vigor and higher yields. A continuous harvest can be planned by making successive planting of the same variety every 2 weeks, or when the last planting has 3 -4 leaves.

VARIETIES

CROP	VARIETY	TIME TO MATURITY	SEED/100 FT OF ROW	DISEASE RESISTANCE OR TOLERANCE	REMARKS
Sweet Corn	Silver Queen	94 days	½ lb	Maize dwarf mosaic Maize dwarf mosaic	Large white ear, excellent quality, widely adapted
	Jubilee	84days	½ lb		Good yields, large yellow ears, good quality.
	Royal Gold	85 days	½ lb		Good yields, large yellow ears.
	Royal Sweet	85 days	½ lb		Sugary, yellow super-sweet type, very good quality
	How Sweet It Is	80 days	½ lb		AAS-White super-sweet type, plant in warm soil.

POLLINATION

Special attention must be paid to pollination as this is essential for full kernel development. Sweet corn is wind pollinated. Planting of 3-4 or more short rows will guarantee greater success than one or 2 long rows

N.B.

Sweet corn must not be planted with field corn, pop corn or standard sweet corn, Cross pollination may take place resulting in reduction in quality both ways.

MULCHING

Mulching is a useful practice in growing sweet corn. This ensures enough moisture is present to ensure the ears develop and are well filled. Mulching with grasses or any organic material is best.

HARVESTING

Normally, sweet corn is ready for harvest in about 20 days after the first silks appear. To maintain the sweetness or sugar content in corn, pick in the cooler periods of the day (early mornings), especially corn that is to be stored for over a day or 2. Corn picked during the hot periods becomes less sweet as the field heat converts the sugar content to starches. Field heat can be however reduced by plunging the newly picked ear of corn into cold water or placing on ice for a short time.

COMMON PROBLEMS

DISEASES - **Wilt** (bacterial disease), **Smut** (especially on white varieties - remove infected parts; **Stunt** (transmitted by leafhoppers); **Virus**.

INSECTS - **Corn earworms**, **European corn borers**, **Flea beetles**.