

# Sweet Corn



**Sun:** Plant in full sun (6 to 8 hours). Space 8 to 12 inches apart within rows, with a 30- to 36-inch distance between rows. Plant from mid-March to late May.

**Soil:** Amend with organic matter to create a well-drained soil. Avoid planting in unamended sandy or heavy clay soils. If the soil test shows the pH is below 6.2, apply lime as recommended.

**Water:** Keep soil consistently moist, but not saturated. Apply 1 to 2 inches of water each week and more during hot summer days. Avoid wetting leaves to avoid fungal diseases. Mulch helps retain moisture.

**Plant:** Direct sow seeds one inch deep. Plant corn in blocks of 4 rows to aid in self-pollination.

**Fertilize:** In the absence of a soil test, apply an all-purpose fertilizer (8-8-8 or 10-10-10) at planting, according to label directions. Reapply 4 to 6 inches from stem (side-dress), 4 to 6 weeks after planting.

**Insects/Diseases/Weeds:** Scout plants frequently for insect and disease damage. Use insecticidal soap (for soft-bodied insects) or Bt dust or spray (for caterpillars, or worms). Spray fungicide regularly to suppress common fungal diseases. Always follow label instructions. Mulch inhibits weeds and diseases.

**Harvest:** Harvest ears when kernels in the center of the ear are full and milky when squeezed, usually 18 to 21 days from silking. Harvest time varies depending on the variety.

**Other:** Corn is a grass. It relies on wind to pollinate its flowers, which is why it is best to plant in short blocks instead of long rows.

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