



## Nichols Garden Nursery

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**Herbs, Seeds & Goods  
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**SWEET CORN** - *Zea mays*. A 2 oz. packet contains approximately 230 to 260 seeds which plants a block of four 20 foot rows. Corn is wind pollinated as such need to be planted in blocks of at least 4 rows rather than one long row. The rows can be any length but need to be at least 4 across. If not poor pollination will result which cause ill filled out ears. Pollination occurs when pollen from the tassels comes in contact with the silks of the corn. Plant after last frost date when soil is thoroughly warm (at least 65°) 1 to 1 1/2 " deep, in rows 2 1/2 to 3' apart, spacing kernels 4 to 6" apart. When preparing your soil keep in mind that corn is a heavy feeder especially of nitrogen. And after you harvest corn plant a cover crop such as crimson clover to replenish the nitrogen in the soil.

Corn is often classified as dent corn, flint corn, flour corn, popcorn, sweet corn, waxy corn, and pod corn. Corn varieties are notorious for crossing. Isolation can be accomplished by planting varieties 250 feet apart or by planting varieties with different maturity dates. If you are willing to accept a minor crossing, such as the possibility of a few white or yellow kernels showing up in yellow or white ears, all our corn varieties can be planted at the same time. Late maturing popcorns will not cross pollinate sweet corn. Some growers like to plant a row of tall sunflowers between varieties to reduce pollen drift. **Due to Canadian agricultural restrictions, we are unable to send corn seed into Canada.** Corn is rich in potassium, phosphorus, vitamin B6 and niacin.

**Planting Recommendations:** Sow seed in spring after all danger of frost has past and soil temperature reaches a minimum of 60° to 95°. Plant seed 1" to 1 1/2 deep, 3-4 seeds per hill spaced 4"-6". Apart. Plant in blocks of 2-4 rows to optimize germination. Plant in well prepared soil amended with rich compost or a complete garden fertilizer. Successive plantings at 2-4 week intervals assures a steady supply of sweet corn for several weeks. Plant in full sun. Water moderately and increase water when tassels appear.

**History:** Corn, maize, was cultivated over 8000 years ago in what is now central and southern Mexico and Central America. It is thought that corn was domesticated from teosinte, a native annual grass that was excellent fodder but produced very few seeds. Another suggests it was developed through natural crossing of gamagrass to yield teosinte and from there crossing with primitive maize. Whatever the theory, evidence of corn was found in caves in Mexico that date back some 6200 years and in New Mexico that go back as far as 5600 years. Sweet corn was developed much later, although the exact time is not known, and was grown by the American Indian in most areas. The Iroquois Indians gave the European settlers the a sweet corn variety called Papoon in 1779. Sweet Corn accumulates two or more times the sugar as field corn, significantly less starchy and the seed coat is thinner allowing it to be more tender. The ancestors of corn were self seeding but modern corn would cease to exist if it were not for the intervention of man.

### **Planting Info:**

Planting Depth: 1 to 1 1/2 "

Germination Temp: 60° to 95°

Days to Germinate: 4-7

Growing Soil Temp: 65°- 75°

Spacing: 4-6"

Planting Location: Full Sun

### **Seed Notes:**

Seeds per ounce: Approx. 150-200

1 oz. packets plants 25 ft.—1/4 lb plants 100 ft.