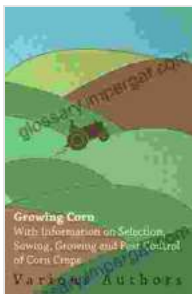


# Growing Corn: A Comprehensive Guide to Selection, Sowing, Growing, and Pest Control

Corn, also known as maize, is a staple crop worldwide, valued for its versatility and nutritional content. Whether you're a seasoned farmer or a novice gardener, growing corn can be a rewarding experience. This comprehensive guide will provide you with all the information you need to successfully cultivate corn in your garden.

## Selecting Corn Varieties

Choosing the right corn variety is crucial for success. Consider your climate, growing space, and desired harvest time when making your selection.



## Growing Corn - With Information on Selection, Sowing, Growing and Pest Control of Corn Crops

by George G. Guilbault

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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**Early-maturing varieties:** These mature in 60-80 days, making them ideal for short growing seasons or northern regions. Look for varieties such as

'Early Sunglow' or 'Sugar Pearl'.

**Mid-season varieties:** These mature in 80-100 days and produce higher yields than early-maturing varieties. 'Silver Queen' and 'Pioneer 32A16' are popular mid-season options.

**Late-maturing varieties:** These take 100 days or more to mature and are best suited for warm climates. They offer the highest yields but require a longer growing season. 'Iowa Stiff Stalk' and 'Yellow Dent' are examples of late-maturing varieties.

## **Sowing Corn**

**Soil preparation:** Corn prefers well-drained soil with a pH between 5.8 and 6.5. Amend the soil with compost or manure to improve fertility.

**Planting time:** Sow corn seeds after the last spring frost when the soil temperature reaches 60°F (16°C). Plant seeds 1-2 inches deep and 6-12 inches apart.

**Spacing:** Plant rows of corn 2-3 feet apart to allow for proper air circulation and pollination.

## **Growing Corn**

**Watering:** Corn requires consistent watering, especially during hot, dry weather. Water deeply and infrequently to encourage deep root growth.

**Fertilizing:** Fertilize corn every 4-6 weeks with a balanced fertilizer high in nitrogen and phosphorus.

**Mulching:** Mulch around the corn plants to conserve moisture, suppress weeds, and regulate soil temperature.

**Pest control:** Corn is susceptible to various pests, including corn earworms, corn borers, and aphids. Monitor your plants regularly and take appropriate control measures, such as using insecticidal soap or introducing beneficial insects.

## **Pest Control**

**Corn earworms:** These caterpillars feed on the developing ears of corn. Control them by using pheromone traps or applying insecticides specifically designed for earworms.

**Corn borers:** These larvae bore into the cornstalks and can cause significant damage. Introduce beneficial insects such as parasitic wasps or apply pesticides containing *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt).

**Aphids:** These small, sucking insects can infest the leaves and tassels of corn. Control them by spraying with insecticidal soap or introducing ladybugs, which feed on aphids.

## **Harvesting Corn**

**Maturity indicators:** Corn is ready for harvest when the silks have turned brown and the kernels are plump and milky. The husks should also be dry and tight to the ear.

**Harvesting method:** Grasp the base of the ear and twist or pull it downward to detach it from the stalk. Remove the husks and silk before storing the corn.

Growing corn is a rewarding experience that can provide you with a delicious and nutritious harvest. By following the steps outlined in this guide, you can successfully cultivate corn in your garden, ensuring a bountiful harvest season after season. Remember to select the right varieties, sow seeds properly, provide optimal growing conditions, and implement effective pest control measures for the best results.



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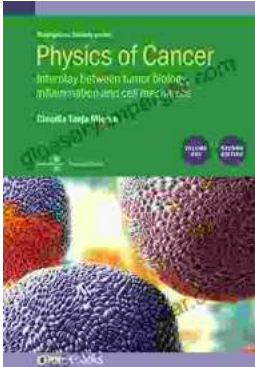
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