

## HOW TO SAVE SEED RATING: CHALLENGING

Corn pollen is produced by the tassel at the top of the stalk. Grains of corn pollen are so small they are carried by the wind for a mile or more. A lot of corn is grown in Southeast Minnesota so several steps need to be taken to produce pure seed to plant the following year.



Growing out corn seed requires special supplies. Step-by-step directions for how to save corn seed can be found at the SSEHeritageFarm YouTube channel. Search for their video called “Corn Hand Pollination.”

Find more information at  
[rplmn.org/seed](http://rplmn.org/seed)

## CREDITS

<https://www.seedsavers.org/golden-bantam-organic-corn>

<https://www.seedsavers.org/site/pdf/corn-hp.pdf>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BTG71mDsF-4>

<https://www.susansinthegarden.com/2014/07/protecting-corn-plants-from-wind/>

<https://www.thekitchn.com/best-method-cook-corn-skills-showdown-23045869>

<http://ohiothoughtsblog.blogspot.com/2015/07/canning-whole-kernel-corn.html>

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Plan a seed.



CORN  
(*Zea mays*)



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## HOW TO GROW



Plant corn seeds (kernels) in the garden after danger of frost has passed. Corn needs fertile soil and plenty of water.

Corn is wind pollinated and successful pollination is needed to grow full ears of corn. Avoid planting corn in one long row. Instead, plant corn kernels in a grid pattern such as 5 rows of 5 seeds each.

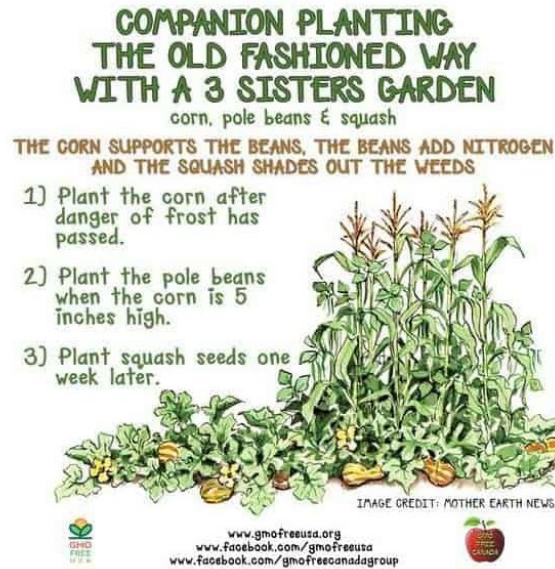


## HOW TO HARVEST

Corn is ready to harvest when the silk begins to brown at the end of each ear. A “milky” liquid will also appear if you puncture some of the raw kernels while on the stalk. If the liquid is clear, the corn is not ready. If there is no liquid, the corn is overripe. Harvest ears of corn by snapping them down or twisting them off the stalk.

## GARDENING TIP

Native Americans planted the “Three Sisters” - a combination of corn, beans, and squash.

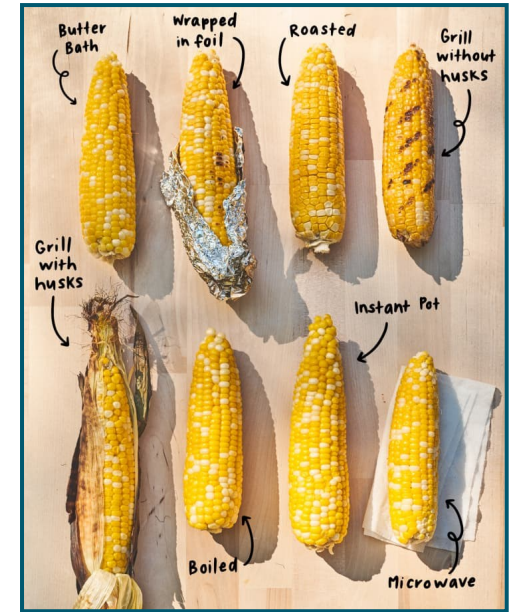


Try growing beans in the same hill as corn, and add squash seeds to the hill. The beans benefit the corn by fixing nitrogen in the soil, and the corn supports the beans as they grow taller.

Allow the corn to grow to a height of 8-10 inches before planting the beans. Make sure the corn variety you grow is tall enough to support the bean variety growing in the same hill.

## HOW TO EAT

Sweet corn can be boiled, microwaved, or grilled. It is commonly eaten with butter and salt.



It can also be cut from the cob, before or after cooking and used in recipes that call for whole kernel corn. Corn can be preserved by freezing or pressure canning.

