

CORN



INFORMATION FORM

Please fill out the following questions for each corn variety that you grow. When applicable, all measurements should be metric. Weight can be in lbs. as it's easily converted to grams or kilos.

CATALOG No./CROP NAME:

Date planted:

Date transplanted into garden (if applicable):

Date of 1st germination:

No. seeds planted:

No. seeds germinated (date):

Did the crop receive full sun, partial sun, or full shade?

.....

continued

PHOTOGRAPHING CORN

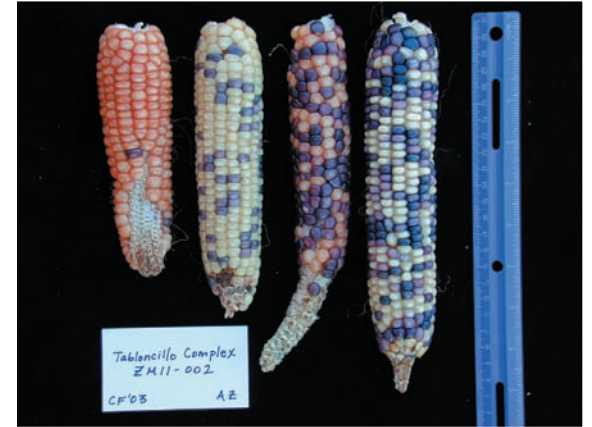
Getting good photographs of plants in the field can be difficult. Mostly what we're looking for with corn is some **sense of the overall plant**, the **ear and color of the kernels** and any other **interesting features**. At right are several examples to help you best document each variety you grow. If you're growing more than one corn variety, be sure to label each photograph with the catalog name and number. If you're only growing one variety, it's still a good idea, but less critical. A ruler helps give scale to your photograph and is an important feature for NS/S. If possible, be sure to include **something for scale** in each photograph—a yard/meter stick, shovel, person, etc. for whole plants; a ruler, business card, etc. for close-ups.

If you don't have a good meter stick, a person standing near the corn is a good way to "measure" plant height. Be sure to provide us with the person's height!

Photo-documentation of the ears is extremely important for maize—it shows both kernel color but also the general size and shape of the ears, both important in determining which race of maize an accession belongs to.

continued

SAMPLE PHOTOS



CORN



INFORMATION FORM

Date of 1st tasseling:

Date of 1st silking:

Length of time that tassels and silks were produced:

What colors were the tassels? Silks?
.....

Were stalks/leaves/veins other colors besides green? If so, estimate the number or percentage of plants and indicate which plant part was colored.
.....

Were aerial roots produced? If so, on how many nodes?
.....

Did you have any problem with lodging (falling over of the stalks)?
.....

continued

PHOTOGRAPHING CORN CONTINUED

Be sure to line up the ends of the ears so they're all "starting" at the same place. A ruler should be placed as in the photographs shown here.

Different parts of the corn plant can be colored: leaves, tassels, silks, etc.

Aerial roots may be produced by some varieties. Count the number of nodes on which aerial roots are produced, starting at the top-most node:

Aerial roots on four nodes (1) and 3 nodes (2).



CORN



How tall was the plant at maturity?

.....

Date of harvest:

How many ears, on average, were produced per plant?

Did you hand pollinate? How?

.....

.....

How well-filled were the ears (were there kernels on the entire ear)?

.....

Can the corn be eaten as a “sweet” corn when it’s immature?

How does it taste?

.....

.....

Were the plants subject to any unusual or particularly harsh weather (hail, hard rain, early frost, etc.)? When? How did they fare?

Were there any problems with disease, fungus, insects, or other pests? How did plants respond? Did you use anything to treat the problem? How well did it work?

Please provide an overall description of how you grew this crop, including a brief description of how you watered (hose, drip, rain only, etc.) and about how often (i.e., did it experience some drought, weekly soakings), whether it needed trellising, was it intercropped and with what, did it need extra shade, did the grasshoppers seem to like it particularly, etc.

QUESTION KEY

CORN



Date planted: the date you sowed the seeds, either directly into the ground or in a seedling tray.

Date transplanted into garden: the date you transplanted the seedlings into the garden.

Date of 1st germination: the date you noticed the first seedling emerge (either from the ground or in a seedling tray; if a seedling tray, be sure to let us know how/where you started the plants).

Number of seeds planted/germinated (date): please count the number of seeds you plant before you plant them! When you decide that no more plants are likely to germinate, count the number of seedlings; include the date.

Date of 1st tasseling: the date when you see the first tassel sticking up above the plants.

Date of 1st silking: the date you see the first silks form. These emerge from the shoots that eventually form ears.

Length of time that tassels and silks were produced: Once no more silks are being produced, ears can no longer be pollinated. Tassels are usually produced prior to silks, so look for the last plant producing tassels.

What color were the tassels? Silks? Most tassels and silks are “yellow”, but both can be colored. Tassel colors can vary from all yellow (stems and anthers) to yellow anthers with purple stems to purple anthers with purple stems. Please try to indicate both anther and stem colors. Silks are mostly yellow but can also be purple- or pink-tinged.

Were leaves/veins other colors besides green? If so, estimate the number or percentage of plants. Leaves are usually green with green colored venation (the veins). However, other pigments, particularly anthocyanins, may result in purple leaves and/or veins. We have rarely seen an entire plot that is colored, but please indicate if yours is!

Were aerial roots produced? If so, on how many nodes? Aerial roots are produced just above the soil (see photograph) and can help stabilize plants. Please indicate whether you noticed aerial roots, on approximately how many plants in your plot, and the average number of nodes on which they were produced (see photograph).

Did you have any problem with lodging? In windy locations, corn plants may easily lodge (fall over). Some varieties are less susceptible to lodging. Please indicate whether your plants tended to lodge and whether they recovered on their own or not.

How tall is the plant at maturity? Try to measure from the ground to the highest average point of the plants; a metric ruler (cm) is best, but use whatever you have. A photograph with a person of known height works well for this. Be sure to indicate the person’s height!

Date of harvest: this may depend on how you harvest cobs. If you’ve been harvesting green ears to eat roasted as “sweet” corn, let us know when you started/stopped harvesting like this. Otherwise, we’re interested in the date when your corn is considered “done”.

continued

CORN



How many ears were produced per plant? Hybrid corns often only produce one large ear per plant. Many heirloom varieties produce multiple ears. Only count fairly full ears, not the small, insignificant ones that are also sometimes produced.

Did you hand pollinate? How? Let us know if you use any hand-pollination techniques (it might affect your answer to the question about how well-filled your ears were). Did you collect and combine all available pollen; did you use pollen from a single plant to pollinate a different plant, etc.?

How well-filled were the ears? Depending on pollen availability, not all kernels on a cob might get pollinated. Your ears will have “blank” spaces where kernels were not pollinated. Let us know if you had “gaps” without kernels and where those gaps occurred on the cobs.

Total seed weight (or number of ears) produced: If you shell your corn seed, please try to weigh it and let us know how much seed was produced. If you keep your harvest on the cob, let us know how many cobs were produced.

Can the corn be eaten as “sweet” corn when immature? How does it taste? None of the varieties offered were “true” sweet corns, but immature corn in the “milk” or green stage is often roasted or steamed and eaten as “sweet”. Let us know if you tried this and how it tasted.