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## What nutrients does corn need to grow

I grow corn from seed in my backyard and you can too! Just watch out for raccoons.Backyard Corn BasicsCorn is both surprisingly easy and incredibly frustrating to grow in a backyard garden. It is a crop that holds the promise of great rewards but is subject to the whims of weather, animals, and gardener's folly.Tips for Growing CornCorn is a heavy feeder. You must keep it consistently fed throughout the growing season. Corn is absolutely not drought tolerant. It needs regular watering, especially while the ears are filling out. Corn is wind-pollinated. It must be planted in blocks to maximize pollination. If you're planting a small block of corn, you may need to help the pollination effort along manually. Corn can cross-pollinate. If you're a first-time corn grower, plant only a single corn variety in your garden to avoid cross-pollination. Cross-pollination could mean that your ears of corn will be tough and not very sweet. Corn can't be hurried. Plant when it is time to plant, and harvest when it is time to harvest. Seeds won't germinate if the soil is too cool and soggy, and if weather or whim do not produce corn by July 4th, that's just the way it goes. If you follow the "rules" of planting corn, you'll likely be rewarded with healthy corn stalks that produce one to two ears of corn per stalk. The typical backyard corn is a bit shorter than store-bought, and the ears are smaller, but the sweetness is not to be matched. You'll find it hard to go back to buying your corn at the grocery store after one successful harvest.Common Corn AbbreviationsCommon abbreviations that you will see on corn seed packages and what they meanAbbreviationMeaningsuNormal, or regular sweet cornsh2Super-sweet cornse, se+Sugar-enhanced cornAn ear of corn, grown from seed in my backyard.ProkidwriterGood Corn Varieties For Backyard GardensCommonly found corn varieties for the backyard garden. NameTypeBenefitsSilver Queensu—sweet corn, whiteEasy to grow, dependableSugar Bunsse—sugar enhanced, yellowEarlier cropNorthern Xtra Sweetsh2—bicolorEarlier cropWhite Mirai2—whiteVery sweet, earlier cropSilver Kingse—sugar enhanced, whiteEasy to grow, dependableCorn Grown in a Raised BedSeedlings, spaced about 8" apart in a raised bed. As long as you feed and water well, this will work and produce corn.ProkidwriterHow to Plant CornWhen planting corn, consider the following:Location Estimate Planting Time Soil Preparation LocationChoose an area of your garden that has not previously grown a "heavy feeder" crop like tomatoes. If you have no choice about where you plant, then pay particular attention to soil preparation to ensure it has sufficient nutrition.Your location should get full sun for most of the day, and be partially sheltered from wind if possible. You will be planting in blocks, so ideally, each block should be no smaller than 3'x3' square, and containing rows that are about a foot apart. (So a 3'x3' block will contain 3 short rows about a foot apart.) You can "cram" many corn plants into that space, so if you have only one block for planting, it will still work.Estimating Planting TimeCorn does best when direct sown in the garden. It is possible to start them up in peat pots, but corn plants don't like having their roots disturbed on transplant, so corn starts need to be handled carefully. In either case, corn should not go into the garden until all danger of frost is past and the soil is warm, at least 50 degrees Fahrenheit for sweet corn. Super-sweet corn does best when soil is at least 60 degrees. In Southern California, I plant corn after May 1st.Soil PreparationAbout 2-4 weeks before planting time, turn the soil over and amend with manure. Begin watering the soil so that the manure has time to decompose a bit before planting. Add bagged garden soil if you like. You're aiming for soil that feels like a soufflé when you mound it with your hands, something with substance but that still has lightness.Planting SeedsWhen the weather is warm and there is no frost danger, shape mounded rows of soil in the planting area. For a 2'x3' block, I make three short rows of mounded soil.Plant corn seeds in the mounded rows that you've prepared.If you're planting regular sweet corn, like Silver Queen, make small holes about 1½" deep and 6-8" apart down the rows. If you're planting super sweet corn, like How Sweet It Is, make small holes about 1" deep and 6-8" apart down the rows. Drop one or two seeds in each hole. Cover with soil and press well, so that the seeds make good soil contact.Once all rows are planted make sure to water well.Growing CornIn a week or so, you should see green seedlings. When they are about 10" tall, scatter slow-release nitrogen-based fertilizer like Miracle-Gro Shake 'n Feed Continuous Release fertilizer, or a specialty high nitrogen fertilizer for corn. You'll want the fertilizer to meet the soil around the base (or off to the sides) of the plants, not hitting the plants or inside of them.At this point, you can also remove any "weak" looking seedlings, saving only the strongest. I typically don't thin anything because I only plant a single block of corn and want to grow as many stalks as possible in my growing season. As long as you keep up with feeding and watering, the corn doesn't seem to mind being crowded.Feed corn about every 30 days, even if using Miracle-Gro Shake 'n Feed Continuous Release fertilizer. and be sure to water deeply and well. Without sufficient water, ears won't form. Gardeners must be diligent about watering and fertilizing!Sometimes, corn stalks will appear to "branch" from the soil line. These are suckers that grow at the base of the cornstalk. They won't hurt anything, but if you want to remove the suckers you can. If anything, cleaning them up may keep critters from making nests in the middle of your stand of corn.Corn TasselsWhen the corn tassels, that is, when you can see the corn silks forming, pay close attention to the tops of the corn. Note how the pollen forms and how the wind distributes the pollen down to the tassels. If you've only planted a single block of corn, you may wish to ensure that the pollen is distributed evenly to each forming ear of corn. This will help the ears form with minimal missing kernels.To distribute pollen manually, take a paper lunch bag and tap pollen into the bottom of the bag. Then put the bag over an ear of corn, closing the bottom of the bag around the base of the ear. Lightly tap or gently shake the bag to distribute pollen evenly over the tassel. Repeat the process on the remaining ears. Beware of Raccoons Raccoons are corn predators. They love corn and are not afraid to rip out the plants from the roots. Raccoons love corn. They show no remorse after ripping out your corn stalks by their roots.ProkidwriterHarvesting CornOnce the corn tassels, the ears develop rapidly and will generally be ready for harvesting about 21 days later. Look for signs of readiness that include:Firm, well-filled ears Dried tassels Ears pulling slightly away from the stalk Kernels that burst easily when pressed with a thumbnail I usually sacrifice an ear of corn or two to test for readiness, pulling the corn husks completely away to get a good look at the ear.Last Word About Pests and MaraudersOur neighborhood has a wandering band of raccoons that routinely wreak havoc upon our gardens. They have been known to decimate stands of corn in mere hours, but I can't bring myself to do anything that might harm them. Thus, I end up "sharing" my harvest with them each year. By "sharing" I mean that some years, they get all the corn and I get none. You can take your own path where raccoons or other pests are concerned. I keep my back door locked and hope for the best.This content is accurate and true to the best of the author's knowledge and is not meant to substitute for formal and individualized advice from a qualified professional.Questions & AnswersQuestion: How long until the ears of corn start to grow? It's been 80 days from a seed, and nothing yet. They are about 12-13 inches tall.Answer: Some corn varieties take up to 120 days from seed to harvest, others are "early" varieties that take only 80-90 days from seed to harvest Possibly, your corn is simply a late season variety that takes a little longer to grow. My friend goes by the adage " knee high by the forth of July," and fertilizes accordingly to get good growth by that date. Since corn are heavy feeders, another possibility is that in your case, they need more food and water to really take off. You could try a nice dose of a vegetable fertilizer and water-in well, and see if that makes a difference. I like the Shake and Feed variety of Miracle Grow because it does not burn and corn seems to like it, but your mileage may vary. Question: Does planting corn seed deep prevent crows from pulling shoots up?Answer: In my experience, planting corn seeds deep only prevents the seeds from sprouting. Corn needs to be planted at the correct depth in order to sprout. To keep the crows from pulling up the shoots, I have had luck in using a crop cage to cover the planting area, but if you are doing a large planting, crop cages may not be feasible.Question: How far apart do you have to plant rows of corn?Answer: I've found that, in an urban environment like mine, you can make it work with what you have. I've had good crops by planting blocks of corn, about 9-12 stalks (plants) in a 3' x 3' area. The stalks are shorter, and the ears are slightly smaller, but it works. I've done as few as 1 block and as many as 6. If you do have the luxury of space, you can plant in rows, however you will still need multiple rows in order for pollination to work - one or two long rows alone won't be very successful. By Glenda TaylorUpdated: Mar 21, 2019Corns are thick, hard areas of skin on the feet. Though similar to calluses, they are usually smaller, harder, and more painful. The body develops corns to protect against constant rubbing and friction. Though they most often appear at pressure points on the sides and tops of the feet, they can develop between the toes and on the soles as well. In some people, corns are asymptomatic. In others, they can range from mildly uncomfortable to extremely painful. There are three types of corns. Hard corns are the most common. They generally develop on areas of thicker skin. Individuals with nerve damage often have this type of corn. Soft corns are white or gray in color and may appear between the toes. They have a rubbery texture because moisture between the toes keeps them soft. Seed corns tend to develop on the bottoms of the feet. damircudic / Getty Images Corns often begin as small bumps that rise from the skin and are hard to the touch. Some corns are flaky and dry while others cause the skin to feel waxy. The main symptoms of corns are pain and tenderness in areas under the skin. Over time, they can swell and become red, particularly after the person wears tight-fitting shoes. PeopleImages / Getty Images One of the most common reasons corns develop is tight- or ill-fitting shoes placing pressure on the toes and feet. While walking, the shoes rub against the skin or create friction between the toes. The skin begins to develop hard tissue to protect itself, leading to corns. Wearing shoes without socks increases the risk of developing corns because there is more friction between the shoes and the feet. Poorly fitting socks may also lead to corns. zoram / Getty Images In addition to going sockless, having bunions can increase the risk of developing corns because the bony bumps at the base of the big toe cause shoes to fit poorly and rub. Hammertoe, which causes toes curl underneath the feet, create friction that can result in corns. Many other growths or deformities, such as bone spurs, may also cause constant rubbing. Jan-Otto / Getty Images Although corns and calluses are similar, there are some key differences between them. They are both hard areas of skin, but corns are usually smaller. Unlike calluses, corns have a distinct center that is often harder than the surrounding area. Corns tend to be round while calluses may be a variety of shapes. Calluses are usually painless, though repeated irritation can cause pain. Wearing shoes with plenty of room for the toes is the best way to prevent corns. If the toes can't wiggle and move around, the shoes are likely too tight. If corns develop even in properly fitting shoes, the person may require protective coverings. Felt pads, corn pads, or bandages can cover areas that rub against the shoes. Toe separators may prevent corns between the toes. Mehmet Hilmi Barcin / Getty Images If protective measures don't resolve corns, podiatrists recommend treatments such as soaking the foot in warm water to soften the skin, and using a pumice stone to file the corn in a circular or sideways motion. It's important to not remove too much skin, as this may lead to infection. A moisturizing lotion can help prevent the corn from redeveloping, as can protective corn pads. Rasulovs / Getty Images Many stores offer over-the-counter corn removal pads. These pads contain salicylic acid, which can break down the hard skin of corns. However, it can also irritate healthy skin, so precaution is a must. In some cases, corn removal is not an option. Instead, it may be beneficial to purchase wider shoes and wear thick, comfortable socks. This can prevent rubbing, as can wearing sandals. asiseeit / Getty Images If a corn is particularly painful, it may require medical inspection. This is particularly true for individuals with diabetes, circulatory issues, or sensitive skin. Health care professionals such as podiatrist may x-ray growths they suspect have developed due to underlying bone structure issues. If a larger condition is to blame, the doctor will prescribe treatment accordingly. francisblack / Getty Images For minor corns, a doctor may begin treatment by trimming some of the hard skin around the corn. Then, they will apply a patch containing salicylic acid. The patient will often need to replace the patch at home. Often, this includes rubbing the area gently with a pumice stone before applying the new patch. Severe corns or those caused by more serious conditions may require surgical removal. Doctors will typically recommend properly fitting footwear and protective pads as well. HRAUN / Getty Images what nutrients does sweet corn need to grow. what nutrients do corn need to grow. what conditions does corn need to grow. does corn need support to grow. what is the best fertilizer for growing corn



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