

**SWEET CORN VARIETIES  
FOR WESTERN WASHINGTON**

Sweet corn can be one of the most flavor rewarding of all home-garden vegetables. The flavor and quality of sweet corn deteriorates rapidly with time, making fresh-picked corn extremely desirable for the home gardener as well as a profitable item for the roadside markets.

When using single varieties, gardeners should plant small blocks over an extended period of time to spread out the length of harvest season. Where only a single planting date is possible, gardeners should plant 3 or 4 varieties with different maturity dates to extend the harvest season. Blends of varieties are available in the packet trade which also can be used to extend the season. Market gardeners should plant several varieties over an extended period of time to lengthen the season and to have a constant supply for sale. Emphasis should be placed on the earlier, more profitable, season.

Southwest Washington gardeners can expect earlier maturity of the listed varieties due to higher temperatures and can place more emphasis

on quality than earliness. Market gardeners should always consider earliness as an important economic factor.

Extra sweet varieties, such as Extra Early Sweet and Sugar King, should be planted separate from the standard, non-extra sweet varieties. Cross pollination between extra sweet and standard varieties causes loss of the extra sweet flavor character. Extra sweet varieties should be placed upwind and across the garden from standard varieties. A minimum of 3 rows placed side by side are necessary to obtain adequate pollination.

The following list of suggested varieties is the result of 1973 and 1974 trials at the Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Unit at Mount Vernon. Varieties are listed in order of maturity at Mount Vernon and are grouped into yellow, bicolor, white, and novelty types. Yields of all varieties listed are acceptable. The varieties marked for roadside marketing (\*) have been superior in yields as well as having good quality.

Variety	Weeks from Planting to Maturity	Source (See Key)	Comments
<i>Yellow Corn</i>			
Earlivee	15	13, 14	The plants stand 4 feet high. Ears are 5-6 inches long. Home garden use only. Acceptable only because of its earliness.
*Earliking	16	5, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16	A standard, early, fresh, market variety. Ears are 6 1/2 inches long with medium to larger kernels. The ears are generally attractive with fair quality. The plants stand 5 feet tall. Has been generally accepted in the trade.

Variety	Weeks from Planting to Maturity	Source (See Key)	Comments
*Royal Crest	16	14	An early variety with excellent flavor and other quality characteristics. Ears are 6 inches in length with medium-sized, sweet, tender kernels. Ears have a slight twist to the kernel rows. The plants stand 5 feet tall. The stubby ear may detract from fresh market.
*Morning Sun	17	14	Attractive 7-inch ears of good quality. The kernels are medium-sized. It produces an average of 1.5 ears per plant. Ears have a slight curve. The plants stand 5 feet tall. An excellent market variety!
Sunburst Improved	17	9, 14, 16	Similar variety to Morning Sun but slightly later. It has good quality and medium-sized kernels and is easy to pick. The long shanks may detract for fresh-market purposes. The plants stand 5 feet tall.
Early Sunglow	18	1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 17	Truly superior home-garden variety. The ears are 6 inches long with medium-sized kernels. The excellent flavor, sweetness, and tenderness make this one of the best eating corns. It does not mature all at once, a very desirable characteristic for home-garden varieties. The plants and husks are red-striped. Plant height is 5 feet.
*Sundance	18	5	Good appearance and quality. Ears are 6 1/2 inches long with medium-sized, tender kernels. Plant height is 6 feet.
*Northern Belle	18	5, 14	Good appearance and yield. Ears are 7 inches long with small, sweet, tender kernels. The plants stand 6 feet tall.
Extra Early Sweet	18	2, 3, 6, 11, 13, 16	Acceptable appearance and flavor. The ears are 7 1/2 inches long and very slender. Plant stands 4 feet high.
*Sugar King	19	14, 15	An extra sweet corn with large ears and excellent flavor and appearance. Ears are 7 inches in length and have medium-sized, tender, sweet kernels. The plants stand 7 feet high.
*Jubilee	19	3, 5, 13, 14, 16, 17	The standard commercial variety with excellent quality and appearance. The ears are 7 inches long. Plants stand 7 feet high. Very good variety for home processing and medium-late, fresh-market purposes.

Variety	Weeks from Planting to Maturity	Source (See Key)	Comments
*Stylepack	21	2, 4, 5, 13, 14	A truly superior variety in quality and appearance. The 7-inch ears have small, sweet, tender, and juicy kernels with excellent flavor. Suitable for very late fresh market and home. Early fall frost may damage or destroy the crop in the north. Stylepack should be planted early to reduce hazard.
<i>White Corn</i> Spring White	16	5	Attractive 6-inch ear with acceptable quality. Kernels are somewhat tough and lack sweetness. Plants stand 4 1/2 feet high.
Silver Sweet	16	2	A variety with excellent flavor. Small, very slender ears 5 inches in length. Ears mature over a long period of time. Husks are purple. Plants stand 6 feet high.
<i>Bicolor Corns</i> Sprite	17	5	An attractive ear with good flavor. Ears are 6 inches in length, uniform, medium-sized, white and yellow kernels. Plants are 5 feet tall.
Harmony	17	5, 6	Excellent flavored corn with tender, sweet kernels. Ears are 6 1/2 inches in length with white and yellow kernels. A high-yielding variety. Plants are 4 feet tall.
<i>Novelty Corns</i> Golden Midget	17	2, 8, 9, 17	A small plant ideal for small space, i.e., patio, apartment, rooftop and container gardens. Small, 4-inch ears with 8 rows of sweet, yellow kernels. The plants stand 3 feet in height.

*Note:* All varieties listed are generally available in garden stores and major seed catalogs. A list of catalog sources has been compiled for your convenience. The list is not complete and you should check your favorite garden catalog. Additional information on care and culture of the home garden can be obtained by referring to Extension Bulletin 0422, *Home Gardens*.

#### Catalog Sources

- 1 Beal Seeds, Ontario, OR 97914
- 2 W. Atlee Burpee Co., 6350 Rutland Ave., Box 748, Riverside, CA 92502
- 3 Earl May Seed and Nursery Co., Shenandoah, IA 51603
- 4 Ferry Morse, P.O. Box 100, Mountain View, CA 94040
- 5 Jos. Harris Co., Moreton Farm, Rochester, NY 14624

- 6 Henry Field Seed and Nursery Co., Shenandoah, IA 51602
- 7 Jackson and Perkins Co., Medford, OR 97501
- 8 Nichols Garden Nursery, 1190 N. Pacific Highway, Albany, NY 97321
- 9 Northrup, King and Co., P.O. Box 959, Minneapolis, MN 55440
- 10 L. L. Olds Seed Co., P.O. Box 1069, 2901 Packers Ave., Madison, WI 53701
- 11 Geo. W. Park Seed Co., P.O. Box 31, Greenwood, SC 29647
- 12 R. H. Shumway Seedsman, 628 Cedar Street, Rockford, IL 61101
- 13 Seedway, Inc., Hall, NY 14463
- 14 Stokes Seeds Inc., Box 548, Main Post Office, Buffalo, NY 14240
- 15 Tillinghast Seed Co., LaConner, WA 98257
- 16 Otis S. Twilley Seed Co., P.O. Box 1817, Salisbury, MD 21801
- 17 Charles H. Lilly Co., 7737 NE Killingsworth, Seattle, WA 97218

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*To simplify the presentation of information, it is sometimes necessary to use trade names. No endorsement of products is intended nor is criticism of unnamed products implied.*