

Corn

Zea mays · Grass family

DIFFICULTY Easy–moderate
TYPE Annual, warm season, direct sown
MATURITY 60–100 days



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Regular,
especially at
tasselling



SOIL PH
6.0–6.8



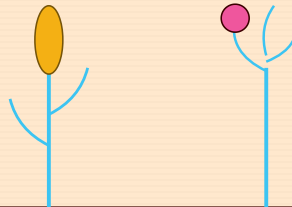
SPACING
25–30cm in
blocks



DEPTH
3–4cm

01 Plant in blocks, not rows

Corn is wind-pollinated, so a single long row often pollinates poorly. Plant in a block of at least 4x4 plants so pollen reliably reaches neighbouring silks.



tall stalk crop, sown in rows or blocks

02 Planting

METHOD	Direct sow in a block for reliable pollination.
SOIL	Rich, well-drained, heavy feeder.
TIMING	Sow after frost risk passes and soil has warmed.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

03 Growing care

- Water deeply and consistently, especially while tasselling and filling cobs.
- Feed generously — corn is a heavy nitrogen feeder.
- Hill soil slightly at the base for stability in wind.
- Hand-pollinate by shaking tassels over silks if pollination looks poor.

04 Problems

- **Corn earworm** — larvae in developing cobs; check tips regularly.
- **Poor pollination** — planted in a single row; always plant in blocks.
- **Lodging (falling over)** — wind damage; hill soil and shelter if exposed.
- **Birds and possums** — net or fence ripening cobs.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Silks have browned and dried, kernels release a milky liquid when pressed.
METHOD	Twist and pull the cob downward from the stalk.
CURING	None needed for sweet corn — eat promptly, sugars convert to starch quickly after picking.
STORAGE	Fridge only a day or two; best eaten the day it's picked.
PRESERVING	See Dehydrating (drying grains fully for storage) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Beans Pumpkin Squash	Tomato	Heavy feeder — follow with a nitrogen-fixing legume crop.