

CORN

Maize, known as **corn** in some countries, is a cereal grain domesticated in Mesoamerica and subsequently spread throughout the American continents. After European contact with the Americas in the late 15th and early 16th century, maize spread to the rest of the world.

Maize is one of the most widely grown crop in the World (332 million tonnes annually in the United States alone). Hybrid maize, due to its high grain yield as a result of heterosis ("hybrid vigor"), is preferred by farmers over conventional varieties. While some maize varieties grow up to 7 metres (23 ft) tall,^[1] most commercially grown maize has been bred for a standardized height of 2.5 metres (8 ft). Sweet corn is usually shorter than field-corn varieties.

SOWING AND PLANTING

Climatic Requirements: Spring season, plentiful moisture supply and nights warming up 15.0°C

Preferred Soil Type: Well structured well drained, fertile, dark loam.

Optimum Average Soil Temperature Range for Growth: 15.5-18.5°C.

Emergence Time: 7-28 days Optimum 12 days.

Plant Spacing: In-row- 20cm

Planting Depth: < 5-7.5cm.

Irrigated

Optimum planting time is mid-September to October. Regional growers have adopted a planting window to cut down the time insects are exposed to chemicals (15 September to 31 October). This reduces the generations that are selected for resistance.

Dryland

Optimum planting time is November to early December. Crops can be planted from late September to late December. Crops planted in September and October reach the critical peak flowering period in December when there is a high risk of hot dry weather which can limit yield and cause early cut out. Crops planted later than mid-January are at a higher risk of frost damage.

FERTILISER GUIDE

Optimum Soil Test Levels: N = 100-200, P = 35-65, K = 100-200, Mg = 20-30, Ca = 8-15, Na = 1-10.

Base Dressing (kg/ha): N = 100.0, P = 45.0, K = 75.0. Main crops N = 75.0, P = 40.0, K = 75.0.

The base dressing is applied at planting as a banded application to one side and below the seed.

Side Dressing (kg/ha): Early crops N = 100.0. Main crops N = 120.0. Side dressing are applied prior to the final inter row cultivation of the crop. If pre-emergence weed control is used and a full moulding is given soon after planting the side dressing nitrogen should be included with the base dressing.

Foliar Feed: This can be useful for the stimulation of Seed Set and enhanced yield.

Optimum pH Range: 5.0-8.0.

Lime Requirement: Lime is often required; As Gypsum is preferred for heavy soil crops.

Safe Fertilisers

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Safe Fertilisers – Crop Info



Corn Program

Ground preparation:

Apply; 1 tonne/ha Lime/Gypsum 50/50 blend
7m³ Feedlot Manure/ ha **or** 300kg/ha Alroc Extra Phos (preferred option)
15lt Vital Activator/ha in 200lt water

Pre Plant

Apply; 100 Kg/Ha Safe Coated Urea +
120kg/ha NPK Mineral blend with 10kg/tonne of S & Zn, 5 kg/tonne Cu & Bo

At Planting

Apply 180kg/ha NPK Mineral blend with 10kg/tonne of S & Zn, 5 kg/tonne Cu & Bo

Top up Fertiliser requirements:

Nitrogen: This can be split up into 2 applications.

Third/Fifth week, Use 160kg/ha Black Urea side dress (Or Sulphate of Ammonia)

Fifth Week, application 8lt/ha Vital Phos/ ha

Seventh week 5lt/ha Vital Mix

Before tassel 10lt Vital K Blast

Multi Nutrients:

8Lt/Ha Vital Mix.to finish the crop off

This can be folia sprayed

The above mentioned application rates can be adjusted to what is economical. These adjustments may not provide the ideal nutrient ratios but should replace some of the nutrients that are removed by the crop. A Program should always be followed with soil and leaf testing and adjusted to suit your soil

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Disclaimer

The above program will be affected by soil variation, testing errors, seasonal factors and management skills. Any recommendation should be acted upon as part of an ongoing fertiliser program. No responsibility can be accepted for any of the above matters or other matters that are beyond our control.

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