

Corn Growth Cycle

Kernel

The seed which can germinate into a new plant or can be processed to make food and nonedible products such as ethanol or polymer plastics.



Emergence

The first leaf, coleoptile or spike appears above the soil surface following germination. One leaf coming through the soil classifies this plant as a monocot.



Vegetative

Up to 16 leaves grow and conduct photosynthesis to produce food from the sun for the plant.



Silking & Tasseling

The tassel is the male part of the corn plant that contains the pollen. The silk is the hollow hair-like tube that captures the pollen and moves it down to the ovary of the plant. Each silk has the potential to pollinate one kernel of corn on the ear.



Maturity

When field corn is ready to harvest, the seed is fully developed and dried down. The corn plant has died and changed to a golden brown color.



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