

# Seed Saving Guide for Corn

- member of the *Graminea* Family
- ideal for beginners but make sure it is open-pollinated
- annual life cycle
- keep different corn varieties 600 feet-1 mile apart
- corn is wind-pollinated & highly susceptible to cross-pollination
- save seed from at least 5 plants
- seed longevity around 2-3 years

## To harvest seeds:

- choose the earliest & fullest cobs to save seed from on several plants
- let ears develop & dry out on the stalk as long as possible
- seeds are mature when the husks on the plants are brown, dry & brittle and the silks are dark brown & dry; the seeds are extremely hard & wrinkled
- pick the ears, pull back the husks but don't remove them, and place ears in a protected location out of the rain to finish drying
- when ears are completely dry, remove seeds by twisting the ear between your hands

## to clean seeds:

- pick out any pieces of husk, silk, ear or stalk

**Be sure seeds are completely dry before returning them to the Seed Library or storing them at home for yourself.**



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**Growing & Seed Saving Guides researched & written by Master Gardeners of Cornell Cooperative Extension Warren County**

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