

Corn

A VERY BRIEF HISTORY OF CORN

Corn is a staple food and **cereal grain** grown in many parts of the world because of its ability to adapt to different climates and environments. Researchers believe it was first domesticated in **Mexico** 7,000 years ago. The strongest type of corn to make its way to Manitoba was **Northern Flint**, known for its high yields and resistance to insects and frosts.

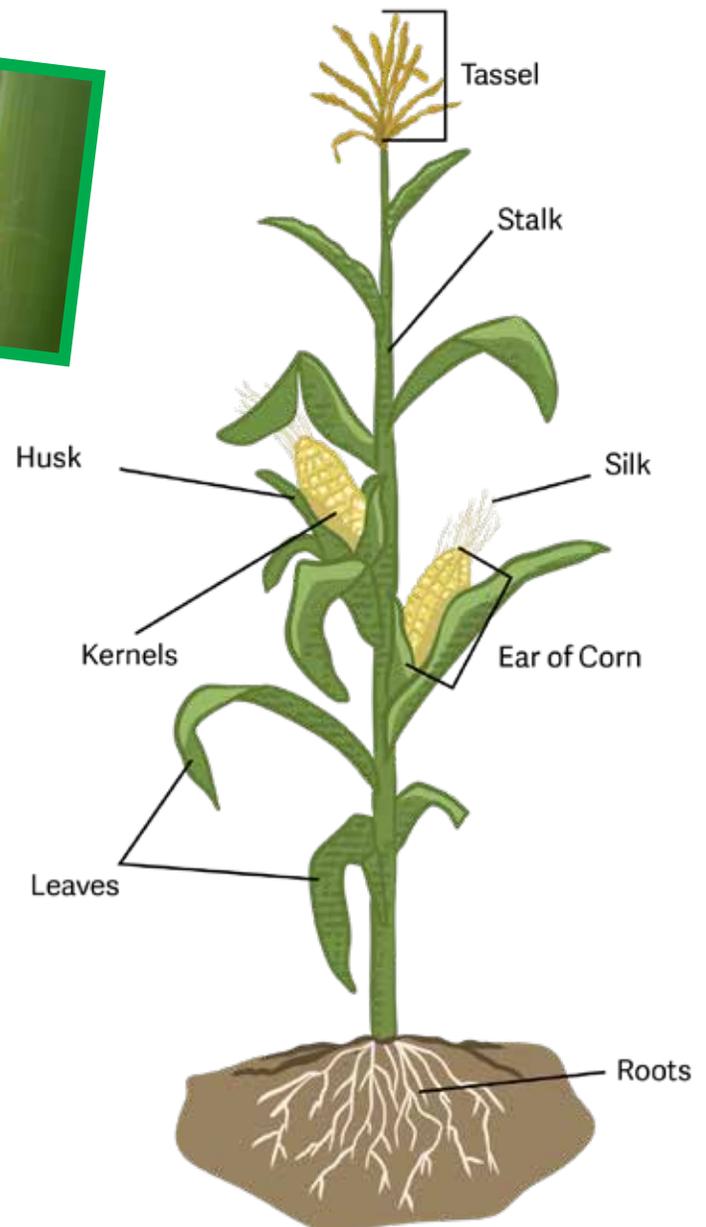
You know corn is flowering when it produces silks out of its ears. Corn grains are called kernels.



Photos: Manitoba Crop Alliance

ONE OF THE THREE SISTERS

Corn is one of the Three Sisters crops – a triad made up of corn, squash and beans. Indigenous peoples used these crops to support an **efficient production system**: all three were planted in the same area, so corn could support the bean plants and the squash could cover the ground to prevent weed growth.





SWEET CORN VS GRAIN CORN

There are many kinds of corn, each with its own uses and nutritional makeup. The **sweet corn** we eat is higher in sugar than the **grain corn** we feed animals or use for distilling, which is a great source of the fibre, protein, and various vitamins and minerals livestock need.

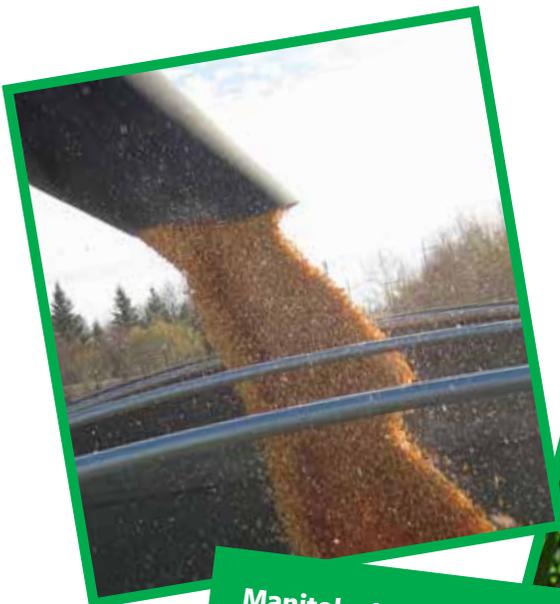
WHAT IS SILAGE?

Corn is a popular crop for **silage** (fermented foliage), which is used to feed animals. Silage is also nutritious and has a taste that appeals to animals. To make silage, the farmer cuts down the entire corn plant and chips it into small pieces, then gathers it in a large pile. Then tractors drive up and down the pile, squeezing all the air out so the silage can ferment with no oxygen.



PLANTED WITH PRECISION

Corn is a **row crop**, which means it needs to be planted with care to make sure each kernel reaches its full potential. **Precision planting** requires careful calibration and maintenance of planting machines.



Manitoba has a corn ethanol facility in Minnedosa that uses 300,000 metric tonnes of corn every year!

