

TENNESSEE WILDLIFE CORN

Tennessee Wildlife corn was developed by The University of Tennessee, Agricultural Experiment Station. This corn variety would be suitable for planting on large or small acreage plots to attract and feed different classes of wildlife including deer, turkey, waterfowl, doves, quail, squirrel, and raccoon. Non-game species would also benefit from the planting of a crop which can be utilized as a forage for grazing animals and a seed crop. As with all corn varieties, prolonged exposure to flooded or water-logged soil conditions during growth will result in premature death or severe stunting of the plants. If flooding can be controlled, this variety would be suited to production in fields that can be flooded after the crop is mature, to attract and feed migratory waterfowl.

Wildlife corn produces ears that are low on the stalk. Average ear height is 22 inches, with a range of 6 to 32 inches. Plants are correspondingly short with average plant height of 71 inches. When ears reach maturity, many will tip downward and touch the ground. This is considered a full season variety, classified as 116 – 118 days to maturity. Stalk quality is good with very little lodging until long after maturity.

Wildlife corn is an open pollinated variety. The only requirement for seed production would be adequate isolation from other corn. Detasseling is not required. Since it is an open pollinated variety, there is variation for characteristics such as maturity, plant and ear height, and grain type. Ears of the variety tend to be long and tapered with both red and white cobs. Grain is somewhat flinty (hard) and kernels are yellow with a very low percentage of white kernels. Under average conditions, the variety will produce 75 bushels of grain per acre.