

# HARVEST TIME

## Time To Harvest

One good method of determining when maturity of your corn is to look for the "black layer" in the corn kernels. When corn reaches the point where all of the yield is made, several layers of cells near the tips of the kernels turn black forming the "black layer."

To find this, break an ear, remove a few kernels, and split them lengthwise. If mature, a black layer will be visible near the tips of the kernels.

Your corn is mature about 55 to 60 days after the corn is 75 percent silked. At this point, the kernels contain 30 to 35 percent moisture, the ear corn will contain 40 to 45 percent moisture and the whole plant will contain 62 to 68 percent moisture or 32 to 38 percent dry matter.

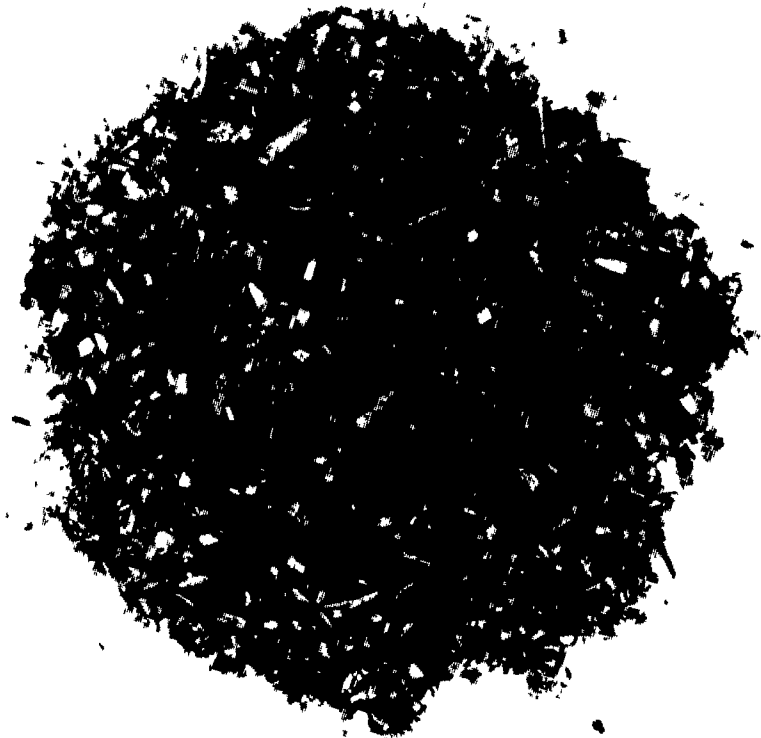
## Make Top-Notch Corn Silage

Corn silage harvesting season is here, and it's time to fill your silos with high-quality corn silage. Since any feeding program (which is designed to allow cows to produce to their maximum potential) must be based on excellent forages, Pennfield would like to review some of the fundamentals of making top-notch corn silage.

1. The corn must be in the dent stage of maturity to assure maximum energy yields, and the moisture level should be between 62% and 68%.
2. The chopper must cut the corn cleanly and uniformly without chopping it too finely - Silage that is not coarse enough can lead to problems with rumen acidosis and depressed butterfat. The theoretical cut should be at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch, and a recutter screen should never be used. Also, the knives must be sharpened frequently
3. Fill the silos as rapidly as possible and be sure to distribute the silage evenly in the silo. If the material is being stored in a pit or bunker silo, better packing can be achieved using a wheel tractor rather than a bulldozer.
4. Seal the silo as soon as possible after filling to avoid spoilage.



**Coarse Chop — Best**



**Fine Chop — Not Good**

## More Energy Per Acre

In a 100 bushel per acre corn crop, the grain harvested alone yields about 4,500 pounds of TDN, while the same 100 bushel per acre harvested as corn silage yields 20 tons of silage containing 8,000 pounds of TDN. Corn silage provides all the nutrients stored in the grain, plus all the feed value available in the stover, which is about 57 percent digestible.

**For More Information - Call Toll Free**

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