

# These Corn Varieties Appeal To The Sweet Tooth

**UNIVERSITY PARK** (Centre Co.) — There are hundreds of sweet corn varieties, and a vegetable expert in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences said gardeners should grow several types in order to find one that tickles the tastebuds.

"Sweet corn offer a cornucopia of tastes," said Pete Ferretti, professor of vegetable crops. "You also can pick a variety

based on kernel color, depth of kernel, sugar content, ear size, and degree of tenderness."

Ferretti said sweet corn seeds are marked with one of three sweetness grades: su (for sugary), se (sugar enriched) and sh2, which has the highest sugar content. He recommends choosing varieties with either su or se grades for home gardening. (An se/se grade means the variety is full sugar enhanced, but doesn't

have enough sugar to qualify as an sh2 variety.)

"The sh2 varieties have the toughest kernels and are grown for shipping to off-season markets and for the processing industry," he said. "In addition, sh2 varieties shouldn't be grown within at least a mile of any other corn variety because cross pollination will produce an ear that tastes like field corn."

Ferretti said sh2 varieties can be grown near other corn varieties only if their maturity dates differ by at least two weeks, or if they were planted more than two weeks apart.

Ferretti recommends these varieties for gardens:

**White**

- Silver Queen (su) Takes 92 days to mature. "This has been the Cadillac of sweet corn for about 30 years," Ferretti said. "It's been popular for a long time, but we now have better varieties."

- Silver King (se/se) Takes 85 days to mature.

- Argent (se) Takes 84 days to mature.

- Silverado (se/se) Takes 82 days to mature.

- Silver Princess (se/se) Takes 75 days to mature.

**Yellow**

- Incredible (se/se) Takes 84 days to mature.

- Tuxedo (se/se) Takes 79 days to mature.

- Sugar Buns (se/se) Takes 76 days to mature.

- Bodacious (se/se) Takes 75 days to mature.

- Legend (se) Takes 73 days to mature.

- King Arthur (se) Takes 73 days to mature.

**Bicolor**

- Delectable (se/se) Takes 84 days to mature.

- Mystique (se/se) Takes 77 days to mature.

- Temptation (se/se) Takes 72 days to mature.

- Trinity (se/se) Takes 68 days to mature.

## Average Farm Feed Costs for Handy Reference

To help farmers across the state to have handy reference of commodity input costs in their feeding operations for DHIA record sheets or to develop livestock feed cost data, here's last week's average costs of various ingredients as compiled from regional reports across the state of Pennsylvania.

Remember, these are averages, so you will need to adjust your figures up or down according to your location and the quality of your crop.

- Corn, No.2y — 2.59 bu., 4.64 cwt.
- Wheat, No.2 — 2.37 bu., 3.95 cwt.
- Barley, No.3 — 1.78 bu., 3.80 cwt.

- Oats, No.2 — 1.56 bu., 4.87 cwt.
- Soybeans, No.1 — 5.19 bu., 8.67 cwt.
- Ear Corn — 77.79 ton, 3.89 cwt.
- Alfalfa Hay — 131.75 ton, 6.59 cwt.
- Mixed Hay — 125.50 ton, 6.28 cwt.
- Timothy Hay — 136.75 ton, 6.84 cwt.



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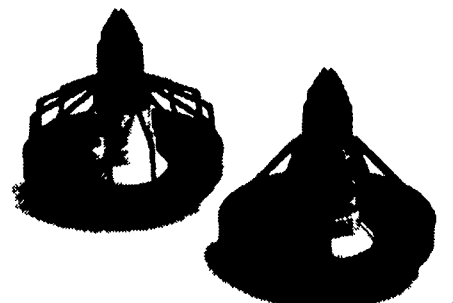


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