



Sow: Indoors in May, outdoors in June.

Soil: Manure heavily the previous season, and mulch up the stems once the plants are established to encourage adventitious roots.

Sun: Full sun

Grow: Sweetcorn is wind-pollinated, so plant out at least four rows deep, 18in apart, once all frosts have passed. Water well – sweetcorn mustn't dry out. Don't grow more than one cultivar in a small garden, unless you stagger the flowering times: cross-pollination ruins the sweet taste.

Harvest: when the blonde tassels on the cobs turn brown, squeeze one seed between your nails. If a milky white liquid runs out, the cob is ready. Eat within half an hour.

Problems: Slugs can attack in early stages, so sow under cloches.

For more advice on growing and cooking sweetcorn, visit the Stylish Gardening Blog: fennelandfern.co.uk

sweetcorn.