

HAVE YOU EATEN THIS PLANT BEFORE?

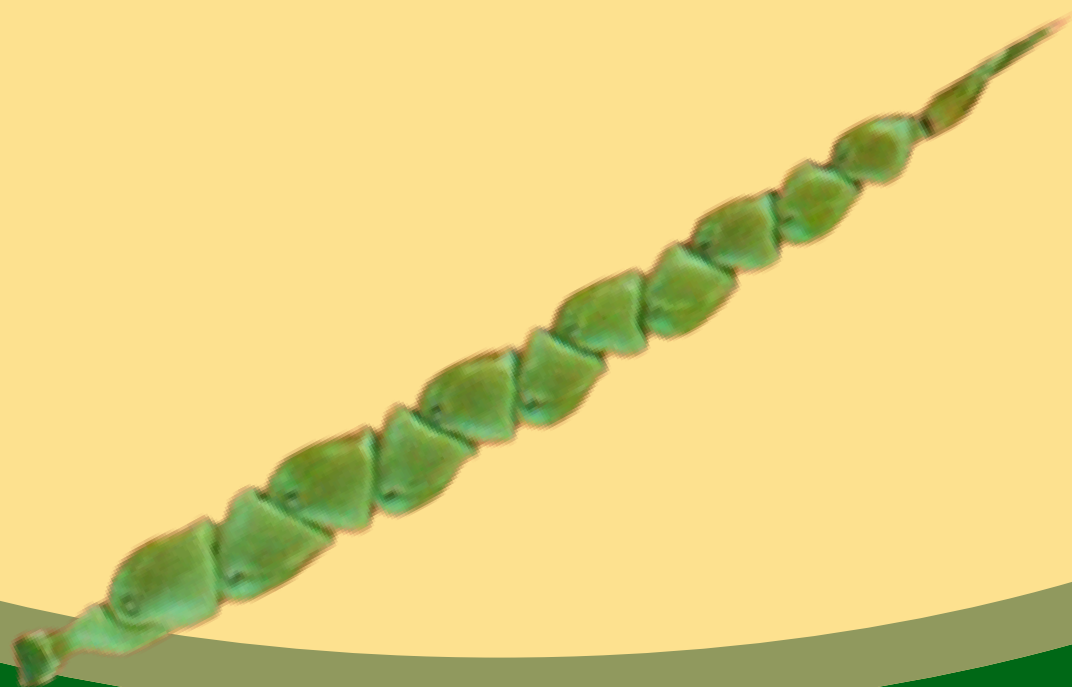


PHOTO BY JOHN DOEBLEY /  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

 *swipe to find out*

YOU VERY LIKELY HAVE!

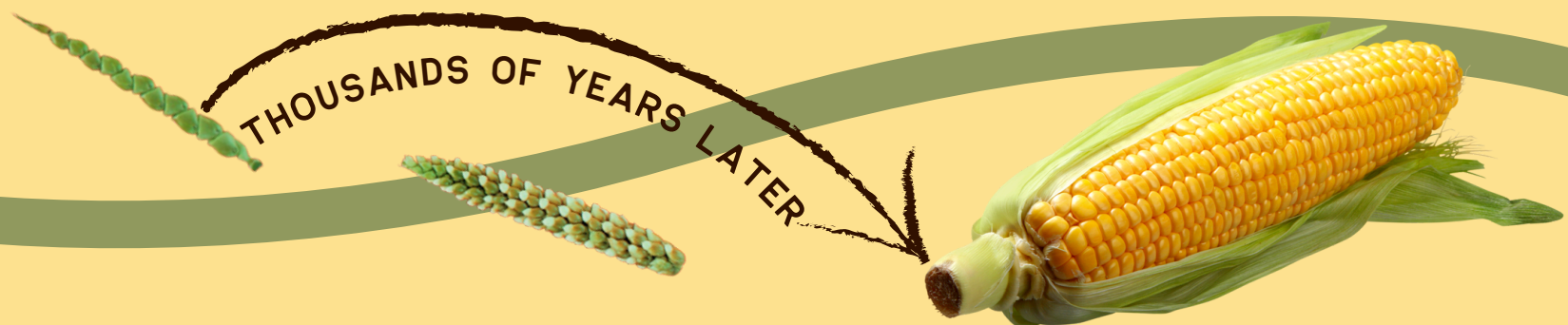


 *swipe to learn more*

# CORN

## MADE BY NATURE - GUIDED BY US

TEOSINTE, THE WILD CORN ANCESTOR, IS A WILD GRASS WITH EARS ABOUT THE SIZE OF A PINKY FINGER THAT ONLY PRODUCES 5-12 SMALL, HARD KERNELS EACH. THIS WAS THE REALITY OF THE WILD ANCESTOR CORN THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO.



THROUGH DOMESTICATION & THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF SELECTION, CORN DEVELOPED HUNDREDS OF LARGE, SOFT & EDIBLE KERNELS PER STALK. READY FOR US TO ENJOY.

# OLD TRAITS

- Tiny ears with only a few kernels
  - Hard, stony kernels
- Grassy taste, not sweet & very little edible material
- Simple structure - kernels arranged in just 2 rows
  - Branchy, bush-like plant
- The ear breaks apart to spread seeds
- High natural genetic variation - vary in size, shape, colour





# NEW TRAITS

- Large ears with many rows of kernels (8-16+ rows)
  - Soft, juicy, edible kernels
  - Sweet or starchy flavour
- Single tall stalk with 1-2 big ears
- High-yield and uniform plants to produce predictable amounts and quality
- Bred for specific uses (sweet corn, corn for flour, feed, oil etc.)



# WHY WE CANT STOP HERE!



**MODERN BREEDING IS STILL NEEDED TO DEVELOP CORN THAT ADDRESSES TOMORROW'S NEEDS BECAUSE:**

- Corn must handle more heat, drought, and extreme weather without losing yield
- New pests and diseases (rusts, borers, etc.) are spreading fast
- Many regions need corn that produces more with less fertilizer and water
  - Nutrition can be improved: higher protein and micronutrients
- Markets need corn that fits many uses: fresh, feed, flour, bio-materials
- Corn must adapt to diverse soils and shifting climates.

BECAUSE THE CORN WE GROW TODAY WASN'T BUILT FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GROWING CONDITIONS. BREEDING HELPS US CREATE CORN THAT STAYS PRODUCTIVE IN TOUGHER ENVIRONMENTS, USES RESOURCES MORE EFFICIENTLY, RESISTS NEW PESTS AND DISEASES, ADAPTS TO DIFFERENT SOILS, AND STAYS RELIABLE FOR FARMERS AND CONSUMERS ALIKE.