

Introduction to Corn: History of Corn

Scientists believe that the first corn, which was called "teosinte" was domesticated in the Sierra Madre area of Mexico around 4,000 to 3,000 B.C.

By 1400 B.C., corn was being cultivated on both Mexican coasts.



The first attempts to hybridize corn came from using native plants from this region. Early farmers kept only the seeds of the corn they liked best. Interest in growing corn as a crop also began to migrate north.

By the time Columbus arrived in the U.S., corn was known as "maize" or, "source of life".

Columbus brought corn back with him to Europe; where it eventually was introduced to the rest of the world!



Early farmers devised many creative uses for corn – including using it for money! No part of the corn plant was wasted.



This trend shifted by the 1800s, when corn starch was the only by-product used from the corn refining process -- everything else was thrown away. Today, the pendulum has swung back, and each part of the corn kernel has a valuable use.

Growing Together

Sources and Links

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