

Problem: Sweet corn, Poorly Filled Ears



Description: Hot, dry conditions can cause problems when sweet corn is during pollination by damaging the pollen. The result is a corn ear that is poorly filled- often described as an ear with 'missing teeth'. Corn sheds its pollen when the tassels unfold for a period and pollination may occur for a 7-8 day period. Hot (temperatures in excess of 100° F) and dry conditions during this time period can cause this poorly filled ear problem.

Recommendations: Corn that is well watered seems less subject to damage, so a deep, thorough watering just prior to tasseling in hot, dry weather is important. Avoid frequent, shallow watering during the pollination process but concentrate instead on a thorough watering prior to tasseling. Poor pollination seems worse when hot, dry winds accompany the hot temperatures.

References:

1. [The Ears on my Sweet corn are Poorly Filled](#), Iowa State University, Horticulture and Home Pest News

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