

PRODUCT DATA SHEET

Popcorn maize

Botanical name	Zea mays
Seeding rate	9-12 plants/m ²
Row spacing	Same as seed maize
Sowing period	Starting in mid-May, after the last frost
Sowing depth	2-3 cm



Sowing

- ▶ With pneumatic seeder
 - The seed disc wiper must be precisely set, as the seeds are very small and there is a risk of double-seeding
 - Alternatively, a disc system for sunflowers or millet can be used
- ▶ Maintain a distance of 500 m from maize, since the false pollen can negatively affect the seed's "popping" and taste

Crop protection

- ▶ No special authorisation; follow the sweet corn authorisation given its use for food production
- ▶ Spectrum herbicide for soil application (note the current authorisations for sweet corn)
- ▶ Control of snout moths (Pyralidae) using parasitic wasps
- ▶ Fusarium issues may emerge in wet years, since maize no longer reaches full maturity

Fertilisation

- ▶ Similar to seed maize

Harvest and treatment

- ▶ Late ripening: maize should be allowed to remain standing for a lengthy period so that the seeds can harden and not be damaged during harvest
 - Otherwise, seeds can develop tears and not pop when heated, turning black instead
- ▶ Harvesting: Early November, similar to seed maize with a German BSA maturity number of 260
 - An axial-flow thresher is most effective at extracting the small seeds with the least damage
- ▶ Drying: Dry seeds indirectly (not with flame or exhaust gas) using cereal dryers or biogas waste heat
 - 14-15% moisture ideal (similar to seed maize)
 - Do not dry too far below these values, since otherwise the water volume in the kernel will be too low to cause it to pop
 - Maize can be packaged after drying
 - Shortly after drying, seeds can be left to cool in the open underneath the dryer (if the space is dry) for another 1-2 days, which enhances popping



Any questions? Please feel free to contact us!

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