

Maize and Your Life

Maize as a Modern Treasure

In 2006, U.S. farmers produced 10.5 **billion** bushels of corn, which is worth nearly 41 billion dollars today. The United States produces about 40% of the world's corn.

Corn is everywhere!

This amazing crop (pun intended) can be found in products in every supermarket aisle. It also has many industrial uses and sometimes substitutes for products derived from petroleum.



Corn is a major component of animal feed. If you eat pork, beef, chicken, or eggs, you are eating corn "once removed."



Is Corn in Your Shopping Cart?

Even if you didn't purchase corn-on-the-cob, corn oil, or corn chips, you probably bought corn on your last trip to the grocery store.

Look at this shopping list:

- Ice Cream
- Salad Dressing
- Lunch Meats
- Hot Dogs
- Canned Fruits & Vegetables
- Ketchup
- Mayonnaise
- Packaged Cookies
- Instant Cocoa
- Non-dairy Creamer
- Reduced-fat Peanut Butter
- Baked Goods
- Chewing Gum
- Jams or Jellies
- Icing
- Pudding
- Cake Mix
- Frozen Pizza
- Sweetened Cereals
- Instant Beverages
- Soft Drinks

Depending on the brand you buy, you can find corn-based substances in laundry detergents, baby diapers, shampoos, deodorants, skin lotions, cosmetics and soap.

Did you know that corn has many industrial uses? It is used as a raw material to manufacture vitamin C, to grow cultures of penicillin and other antibiotics, and as an ingredient for intravenous fluids. In the transportation industry, you'll find it as a component of road and runway de-icers. It is even used in petroleum extraction, as part of the cooling medium (drilling mud) for petroleum drill bits. There are corn-based inks and adhesives, and it is used in some paint, wallboard, and recycled paper. It is also important to the textile industry for finishing or sizing fabric. And did you ever think about how paper gets corrugated? It is a corn-based adhesive that sticks the wavy paper core to the outer paper!

Would you like your ethanol straight up, on the rocks, or in your gas tank?

Corn can be distilled or refined to produce ethanol. A true American drink is bourbon, made from distilled corn. Corn is one of the many plants that is used to make biofuels. Although biofuels diminish dependence on foreign oil, it increases the demand for corn and raises the price.



Everything in this picture has a corn ingredient, including the cardboard box and the biodegradable packing noodles!