



# Planting small seed, Part 2: Planting conditions

## Overview

Hybrid seed corn comes in many shapes, sizes and weights based on ear formation. This four-part series addresses special considerations for maximizing yield when planting small corn seed.

## What you should know

- Small corn seed is more susceptible to stress, so proper planting conditions and field preparation are important. Optimizing soil conditions at planting will promote fast emergence and good early vigor.
- Smaller seed may be more sensitive to planting depth. Ideal depth is 1.5 to 2-inches, but in dry soil conditions, it can be slightly deeper.

## Action steps

1. **Prepare soil:** A good, firm seedbed will preserve soil temperature and moisture and allow for easier planting.
2. **Monitor moisture:** Smaller seeds need less moisture for germination, but when planting deeper than 2.5 to 3 inches, wait for enough moisture availability. Under full irrigation, pre-irrigate to provide adequate moisture.
3. **Plant in warmer soils:** Corn begins to germinate slowly at 50° F, taking up to 35 days to emerge. At 55° F, corn will emerge in about 10 days. Planting into warmer soils protects smaller seed. Look for seven to 10 days of good, warm weather for uniform emergence.
4. **Monitor for stress:** Walk fields five to seven days after planting to check soil conditions and the seed germination stage. Look for crusted soils and make sure the coleoptile is straight and not starting to kink. If it is kinking, use mechanical crust breakup or add irrigation to soften or break up the crust.



*Proper field preparation and soil conditions help get small seed off to a strong start.*



## 30-Second Summary

- Smaller seed is more susceptible to stress.
- Preparing soil and maximizing planting conditions help ensure early vigor for small seeds.
- Planting depth, moisture and soil temperature are important factors to consider.

## NOTES:

For more information, contact:



[www.nutechseed.com](http://www.nutechseed.com)  
1-888-647-3478