

## A-maize-ing Corn

The United States is the largest producer of corn in the world—about 13 billion bushels of corn are grown every year in the United States. One bushel of corn weighs 56 pounds, so that’s a lot of corn! Most of the corn grown in the United States is grown in the Midwest, with Iowa and Illinois being the top harvesters. Here are some more fun facts about this corny crop!

- 🌽 The ear of corn (also called a cob) is a flower, and the kernel is a seed
- 🌽 Corn is grown on every continent in the world except Antarctica
- 🌽 Early North American settlers used corn as money—it was that valuable!
- 🌽 Corn is actually called “maize” by most countries, which comes from the Spanish word “maiz”
- 🌽 The word “maize” means “sacred mother” or “giver of life”
- 🌽 Each ear of corn has an average of 800 kernels and 16 rows
- 🌽 Corn can be turned into a sweetener—many sodas contain high fructose corn syrup, which comes from corn!
- 🌽 Most of the corn grown in the United States is used to make fuel and animal feed
- 🌽 Corn grows in many different colors besides yellow—it can be black, blue, purple, red and white

Corn isn’t just good for eating—the stalks (which stand about 12 feet tall) are perfect for mazes! Most corn mazes are between four and twenty acres—that’s the size of four to twenty football fields! Check out <http://www.cornmazesamerica.com> for facts about corn mazes and to find one in your area. In the meantime, see if you can find your way through this corn maze!

