LAND PREPARATION

The land should be prepared to allow for good seed establishment and drainage. In clay soils, this would mean ridges or beds 2 to 4 feet wide, with a 1 ft drain between beds. Limestone should be incorporated into the top 4 in. at a rate of 25–30 (100 lb) bags per acre for clay and 5 bags per acre for sands.

Spacing at planting should be 9 to 12 inches apart in the row, with rows 3 to 4 feet apart. This would allow for a dense plant population with adequate space for fertilizing, weeding, spraying, and harvesting.



IRRIGATION

For any commercial-size plot, sprinkler irrigation from Caribbean Chemicals will dramatically reduce costs.

FERTILIZING

- **First dose at 1 week:**
  Elixir 7-21-21, 200 lb/acre.
- **Second dose at 4 weeks:**
  Elixir 7-21-21 or 15-15-15, 200 lb/acre.

While it is possible to use a blended fertilizer, Elixir is superior because it is far more soluble and thus more available to the plant. In addition, each granule contains all the nutrients, whereas in a blended fertilizer each granule contains only one nutrient. The crop would need some additional nitrogen, as can be observed by the color of the leaves. Sulphate of Ammonia could be applied according to the appearance of the crop. This may amount to 200 to 300 lbs per acre. The sulphur would also benefit the corn.

WEED CONTROL

Lazio or Moccasin may be applied before planting or within a day or two of planting. This would prevent weed seeds from germinating. The rate would be 1.5–2 liters per acre. If weeds become a problem later in the crop, Carista or Lifeline may be used. These are non-selective herbicides and would kill the crop if sprayed over it, so they should be used with great care. They work by eliminating the chlorophyll in the plant, so if enough of the plant is covered by the spray, it would not be able to produce food and therefore dies. However, it will only affect the crop plant if the spray touches it, and it will only affect the chlorophyll on the spot it has touched. It will not cause injury like Paraquat or affect the roots like Glyphosate. If applied with caution, it is an excellent option to reduce cost.

PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL

Sweet corn is attacked by several insects. The most important are cutworms, chewing caterpillars and the corn ear worm .By the time damage is observed millions of eggs have already been laid, therefore control is difficult because as fast as the pest is killed new ones hatch out. Even if an ovicide is used at that time the eggs are hidden by new growth of the plant. An ovicide like advance 10 must be used early, before the pest is observed.

SPRAY APPLICATION

The program recommended is designed to maximize your profit and reduce costs. You will notice that many products are applied early in the life of the crop. This is because the crop is most vulnerable at this time, and any damage then would affect the productivity of the entire crop. In addition, the plants are small, so the quantity of product needed is also small. It is far better to invest a small amount early in the crop, as it is expensive to address the problem later, and yield will be greatly reduced even then. With the technology today, you can apply an insecticide, a fungicide, a foliar fertilizer to feed the plant better, and a biostimulant to improve root development, flowering, growth pattern, or resistance to stress of various kinds. For bacterial diseases apply Coback or Cuprofix at 15 g per gallon. Do not mix with other products, apply alone.

A GUIDE TO SWEET CORN PRODUCTION



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A SUCCESSFUL SWEET CORN GUIDE

PLANT



Drench **Bio 20** 10 ml/gal (stimulate root development) + **Ryzo 500** 15 g/gal (protect from root fungus like bottom rot) + **Frip** 5 ml/gal (protect from cutworms and sucking insects) + **Vyd-8** 10 ml/gal (protect from nematodes, mainly on sandy soils) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the drench penetrate the soil effectively). Spray **Fastak** or **Karatax** 5 ml/gal (blanket spray for cutting insects)

WEEK 1



Drench **Frip** 5 ml/gal (protect from cutworms and sucking insects) + **Shield** 15 ml/gal (broad spectrum fungicide) + **Agrical** 30 ml/gal (liberate calcium and reduce soil acidity) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the drench penetrate the soil effectively). Spray **Advance** 10 ml/gal (kill insect eggs and immature stages) + **Coback** 10 g/gal (protect from fungus and bacteria affecting shoot) + **Bio 20** 10 ml/gal (provide nutrients, proliferate root growth) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the spray to spread over and enter the leaf).

WEEK 2



Drench **Bountiful Harvest** 30 ml/gal (encourage root growth) + **Ryzo or Shield** 15 g/gal (protect from root fungus) + **Bio 20** 10 ml/gal (provide nutrients, proliferate root growth) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the drench penetrate the soil effectively).Spray **Advance** 10 ml/gal (kill insect eggs and immature stages) + **Frip** 5 ml/gal (systemic insecticide against most insect pests) + **Carbendazim** 5 ml/gal (protect from fungus affecting shoot) + **Phortify** 10 ml/gal (promote root growth; can substitute **Nutrient Express** 5 g/gal) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the spray spread over and enter the leaf).

WEEK 3



Drench **Agrical** 30 ml/gal (liberate calcium and reduce soil acidity) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the drench penetrate the soil effectively). Spray **Advance** 10 ml/gal (kill insect eggs and immature stages) + **Secure** 5 ml/gal (control Diamondback Moth and other pests) + **Coback** 10 g/gal (protect from fungus and bacteria affecting shoot) + **Quad 14** 10 ml/gal (provide NPK and Ca, stimulate immunity to disease) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the spray spread over and enter the leaf).

WEEK 4



Drench **Bountiful Harvest** 30 ml/gal (encourage root growth) + **Ryzo-500** 15 g/gal (protect from root fungus) + **BB/All Purpose** 10 g/gal (dilute fertilizer) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the drench penetrate the soil effectively). Spray **Advance** 10 ml/gal (kill insect eggs and immature stages) + **Frip** 5 ml/gal (systemic insecticide against most insect pests) + **Carbendazim** 5 ml/gal (protect from fungus affecting shoot) + **Bio 20** 10 ml/gal (provide nutrients, proliferate root growth) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the spray spread over and enter the leaf).

WEEK 5



Spray **Striker** 5 g/gal (control Diamondback Moth and other pests) + **Cuprofix** 20 g/gal (protect from fungus and bacteria affecting shoot) + **Quad 14** 10 ml/gal (provide NPK and Ca, stimulate immunity to disease) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the spray spread over and enter the leaf).

WEEK 6



Spray **Advance** 10 ml/gal (kill insect eggs and immature stages) + **Secure** 5 ml/gal (control Diamondback Moth and other pests) + **Carbendazim** 5 ml/gal (protect from fungus affecting shoot) + **Phortify** 10 ml/gal (promote root health and cob development) + **Bthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the spray spread over and enter the leaf).

WEEK 7



Spray **Striker** 5 g/gal (control Diamondback Moth and other pests) + **Cuprofix** 20 g/gal (protect from fungus and bacterial disease) + **Quad 14** 10 ml/gal (provide NPK and Ca, stimulate immunity to disease) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the spray spread over and enter the leaf).

WEEK 8



Spray **Advance** 10 ml/gal (kill insect eggs and immature stages) + **Secure** 5 ml/gal (control Diamondback Moth and other pests) + **Carbendazim** 5 ml/gal (protect from fungus affecting shoot) + **Bio 20** 10 ml/gal (provide nutrients, proliferate root growth) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the spray spread over and enter the leaf).

WEEK 9



Spray **Striker** 5 g/gal (control Diamondback Moth and other pests) + **Cuprofix** 20 g/gal (protect from fungus and bacterial disease) + **Quad 14** 10 ml/gal (provide NPK and Ca, stimulate immunity to disease) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the spray spread over and enter the leaf).

WEEK 10



Spray **Advance** 10 ml/gal (kill insect eggs and immature stages) + **Secure** 5 ml/gal (control Diamondback Moth and other pests) + **Carbendazim** 5 ml/gal (protect from fungus affecting shoot) + **Phortify** 10 ml/gal (promote root health and cob development) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the spray spread over and enter the leaf).

REPEAT WEEKS 9 AND 10 IF NECESSARY