

Maize



CORN FIELD IN LIECHTENSTEIN
BY. PARANOID. [PUBLIC DOMAIN], VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Vegetation

Maize (*Zea mays*), also known as corn, is an annual crop.

Climate

Maize is grown across a wide range of climates, including tropical and extra-tropical.

Distribution

Maize is grown worldwide.

Climate regulation value

The average greenhouse gas value for ecosystems of this type is -52 metric tons CO₂-equivalents per hectare over a 50 year time frame (t CO₂-eq ha⁻¹ 50 yrs⁻¹). This includes 26 t CO₂-eq ha⁻¹ 50 yrs⁻¹ from storage of organic matter that would result in greenhouse gas release if cleared and -79 t CO₂-eq ha⁻¹ 50 yrs⁻¹ from ongoing greenhouse gas exchange between the ecosystem and the environment.

When biophysical effects are taken into account, the average climate regulation value for ecosystems of this type is 187 metric tons CO₂-equivalents per hectare (t CO₂-eq ha⁻¹ 50 yrs⁻¹). This is an increase relative to the value based on greenhouse gas regulation alone.

Considering an average car, emitting 1.1 lb CO₂ per mile driven, maintaining 100 square feet (9.3 m²) of this ecosystem type would, on average, be equivalent to driving 97 miles/157 km (counting greenhouse gasses only). Counting biophysical effects, clearing the vegetation would be equivalent to driving 347 miles/559 km.