

Corn Growth Timeline: Mid Height, Full Height, and Growing Season Length

Corn development is measured in both days and growth stages, with key milestones marking its progress from planting to harvest. Here's how corn height and maturity unfold during the growing cycle:

When Does Corn Reach Mid Height?

- **Mid height** in corn generally occurs around the *V8 to V12 vegetative stages*.
- By **V12** (about 4 feet tall or more), corn has developed roughly half of its full leaf area and is rapidly accumulating dry matter^[1].
- In terms of timing, this stage typically arrives **6 to 8 weeks after emergence**, depending on hybrid and weather conditions^[1].

When Does Corn Reach Full Height?

- **Full height** is usually achieved at the **VT (tasseling) stage**, when the tassel is fully emerged but before pollination begins^[1].
- Most corn hybrids reach **maximum height at VT**, which is just before the transition from vegetative (V) to reproductive (R) stages^[1].
- For a typical mid-season hybrid in the central Corn Belt, **tasseling occurs about 84 days after planting**^[2].

Length of the Growing Season

- The **total growing season** for corn varies by hybrid:
 - **Early-season hybrids:** 85–100 days
 - **Mid-season hybrids:** 101–130 days
 - **Full-season hybrids:** 131–145 days^[2] ^[3]
- For a *mid-season hybrid* (the most common in the central Corn Belt), the **average time from planting to physiological maturity (black layer)** is about **130 days**^[2].
- **Silking** (the start of the reproductive phase) occurs around **70 days after planting**; **full maturity** is typically reached **60 days after silking**^[2] ^[1].

Summary Table: Corn Growth Milestones

Growth Stage	Approx. Days After Planting	Description
V8–V12 (Mid Height)	42–56 days	Rapid growth, ~4+ feet tall
VT (Full Height)	~84 days	Tassel emergence, max height

Growth Stage	Approx. Days After Planting	Description
R6 (Maturity)	120–145 days	Black layer, harvest readiness

Key Points

- **Mid height:** ~6–8 weeks after emergence (V8–V12 stage, ~4+ feet tall)^[1].
- **Full height:** At tasseling (VT stage), usually ~84 days after planting^{[2] [1]}.
- **Growing season length:** 85–145 days, depending on hybrid; mid-season hybrids mature in ~130 days^{[2] [3]}.

Corn growth is influenced by hybrid genetics, temperature (growing degree days), and local conditions, so actual timing may vary slightly by region and year^{[2] [1]}.

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1. <https://www.cropscience.bayer.us/articles/bayer/corn-growth-stages-and-gdu-requirements>
2. <https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/nch/nch-40.html>
3. <https://eos.com/blog/how-to-grow-corn/>