



Corn Growth & Development REPRODUCTIVE STAGES

STAGE	DESCRIPTION
R1	Silking – One of the most critical stages. Each individual corn kernel must be fertilized for maximum yield.
R2	Blister – Kernels form as small blisters containing clear fluid.
R3	Milk – Clear fluid in kernels begins to turn milky white as starch buildup occurs. Stress can cause kernels to abort.
R4	Dough – Fluid changes to dough-like substance. Drought stress now will usually reduce kernel “depth”.
R5	Dent – Occurs about 38 days after silking.
R6	Black Layer – This stage is also called “physiological maturity”. Kernels form black layer or “gate” which allows water to leave the kernel.

