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Zachary B. Traylor, Sarah L. Fitzsimmons, Melissa A. Draves, Miriam Nancy Salazar-Vidal, William F. Tracy, and Sherry Flint-Garcia

*Cold Spring Harb Protoc*; 2026; 10.1101/pdb.top108444

### PROTOCOLS

#### **Field Preparation and Planting Corn (*Zea mays*)**

Melissa A. Draves, Zachary B. Traylor, Miriam Nancy Salazar-Vidal, Sarah L. Fitzsimmons, and Sherry Flint-Garcia

*Cold Spring Harb Protoc*; 2026; 10.1101/pdb.prot108636

#### **How to Monitor Growth and Identify Developmental Stages of Maize (*Zea mays*)**

Miriam Nancy Salazar-Vidal, Melissa A. Draves, Sarah L. Fitzsimmons, Zachary B. Traylor, William F. Tracy, and Sherry Flint-Garcia

*Cold Spring Harb Protoc*; 2026; 10.1101/pdb.prot108637

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Sarah L. Fitzsimmons, Miriam Nancy Salazar-Vidal, Zachary B. Traylor, Melissa A. Draves, and Sherry Flint-Garcia

*Cold Spring Harb Protoc*; 2026; 10.1101/pdb.prot108638

#### **How to Harvest and Store Corn (*Zea mays*)**

Miriam Nancy Salazar-Vidal, Melissa A. Draves, Sarah L. Fitzsimmons, Zachary B. Traylor, and Sherry Flint-Garcia

*Cold Spring Harb Protoc*; 2026; 10.1101/pdb.prot108639

**Cover Illustration:** *Zea mays* (maize) is among the most important crops worldwide and a classical model organism for genetics research. Conducting successful experiments in maize genetics and breeding requires accurate identification of developmental stages, as key experimental procedures are strictly dependent on the plant reaching a specific stage of development. Moreover, proper monitoring of development enables meaningful comparisons between different lines and populations. In this issue, Salazar-Vidal et al. describe how to monitor growth and identify developmental stages in the maize reference inbred line B73, providing a practical framework for staging plants accurately throughout the growing season and planning activities such as data collection, pollination, or harvesting (doi:10.1101/pdb.prot108637). The cover image shows the development of B73 maize seedlings over the course of 15 days, arranged counterclockwise from kernels prior to imbibition (*bottom left*) to the V2 stage (*top left*). Photograph by Miriam Nancy Salazar-Vidal, with the assistance of Melissa Draves.

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Researchers using the procedures described in *CSH Protocols* must obtain all necessary permissions and appropriate approvals from the local institutional review board (IRB) or other appropriate ethics committee, prior to the start of the study. All work using human subjects and animals must be performed in accordance with the ethical standards of the relevant institutional and national committees for such matters and the WMS Declaration of Helsinki on ethical principles for medical research.

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