



Growing Organic

Monday, February 16, 2015

### A review of Taos Blue Corn



Taos Blue on 7/13

On June 16, 2014 I planted Taos Blue. This is a GRIN corn, PI 476868. Its from the Taos Pueblo and it's called "Blue Corn". I can't have a corn called "Blue Corn" because hey, lots of them are blue.

This is a flour corn, and I'm always looking for a good flour corn.



Taos Blue August 14

This is a short season corn and so I knew I had time to plant it before frost. (Which did not come till December in 2014) The soil was dry, I had to irrigate 2-3 times a week to prevent wilting. There was no residual soil moisture even in the spring, due to the drought.



October 2 Taos Blue

As you can see, there was lodging. This corn is not very tall and the cobs are not held very far off of the ground. I harvested this right after I took this photo. This corn was the least productive in my field. The Kaanga Pango and the Yellow Papago yielded twice the amount of this corn.



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Taos Blue & Fusarium

Note the starburst pattern on the kernels...Its a fusarium. Fumonins are a group of mycotoxins produced by fungi in the genus *Fusarium*. The fungus *Fusarium moniliforme* (*Fusarium verticillioides*) is a common pathogen of corn, so common in fact that it is found wherever corn is grown. *Fusarium moniliforme* usually appears white to salmon colored, although it may not be visible on the corn kernel. This fungus often produces a symptom on the corn kernels referred to as "starburst," or a white streaking of the kernel. You can't eat corn with fusarium or feed it to horses. I guess this one will be chicken food. As part of their rations, fumonins don't bother chickens.

I suspect the very very dry weather, coupled with insect invasions of every known kind are probably responsible for this. I won't be doing any more summer planting of corn. This year the plan is to plant all four corns of the season as early as possible. I'm keeping an eye on the soil temperature. If it continues to warm, I may plant in March!

Posted by Foothill Farm at 12:18 PM

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Growing Organic

Sunday, May 10, 2015

### Review of Papago Corn

#### Papago Corn

We planted Papago on July 6, 2014 and boy was it every hot hot and dry. It was 95 degrees the day we planted. Every part of this soil is so dry that it is like dust, anywhere without irrigation.



July 13, 2014

Planting corn in mid summer and July is pretty late, even for here. I prefer to spring plant everything, so that we can take advantage of residual moisture in the soil. Note that even the weeds have dried up and crisped. These are one gallon drippers and I turned the irrigation on the day before we planted, and then again as we planted.

After one month this corn was looking very good. This is my favorite of all the drought tolerant landrace corns that I have tried. This was irrigated once a week (one gallon per corn). This was direct seeded and it was still a great stand. Normally I plant to the field and start a tray at the same time. If the weather is unseasonably cold I may start the whole thing to a tray. Or if the seed is old.



August 14, 2014



September 5, 2014

By September 5 Papago was in full tassel. Now that was fast! There was very little incidence of disease in this corn until the very end. Corn ear worm broke out. Another reason to plant early.



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October 2, 2014

So here's the stand just before I picked the ears on October 2. I like the tassels to be nice and dry before I pull them out of the field. Of course we did not have frost yet and the weather was still hot and dry. We stopped irrigating the week before this photo was taken. During it's growth period I fertilized it once with fish emulsion and added compost to each plant. Which is something I do for every stand of corn. The compost helps hold the irrigation water. These were planted on 18 inch centers. There are 75 plants in this stand.



February 5, 2015

Due to the good wrapper, most of the incidence of corn ear worm was at the very ends of the cobs, which I broke off when I hung the corn. I suspect an earlier planting would help eliminate this problem. The bright yellow corn is the Papago. Behind it in white is the Drought Tolerant Hickory King and to the right in yellow/orange is Isola di Este.



And here we are all done. What I love about corn is that every part is useful. These cobs and the dried husks we used in the BBQ over the winter. So all that's left to tell you about is the flavor.

This is the best yellow corn flour! Superb taste, easy to grind. I was so impressed with this corn that I sent some to Glenn at Anson Mills and told him he had to taste this!

Many thanks to the Papago Indians for maintaining this corn and to Mark Millard of GRIN for recommending it for trial. This corn is PI 217410. This one's a keeper!