

SWEETCORN - GLASS GEM



- Sweetcorn 'Glass Gem' came to global attention in 2012. The story starts with an Oklahoma Farmer, Carl Barnes, who began growing older varieties of Sweetcorn as a way to reconnect with his Cherokee heritage and to preserve their ancient varieties.
- Through repeated sowing and replanting, Barnes selected the most colourful cobs and over time this resulted in rainbow cobs. At a native-plant gathering in 1994 Barnes met another farmer, Greg Schoen, who then began growing the rainbow corn alongside traditional corn, and over time the rainbow corn displayed increasingly vibrant colours and vivid patterns, and so the 'Glass Gem' variety was created, with the pictures becoming an internet sensation in 2012.
- The plants will grow up to 10ft tall, and bear up to 5 cobs per plant. As with regular Sweetcorn, it likes to be planted in blocks rather than lines as this aids pollination. The cobs are edible, but are better used as 'cornmeal' or they can also be dried and used as popcorn (but sadly it won't give you rainbow popcorn). They do retain their colours when dried and so make a spectacular ornamental variety.