



UF Sweet Corn Research

Dr. Marcio Resende is an assistant professor in the Horticultural Sciences Department at the University of Florida. Resende also leads the UF sweet corn breeding. Through his undergraduate studies, Resende found an interest in genetics and the breeding of trees and plants. He later completed his doctoral degree at UF and then, he started his own genotyping company called Rapid Genetics and worked with the company for three years.

Currently Resende's appointment is 80 percent research 20 percent teaching. Resende publishes research articles about his corn research and applies to federal, state and private grants to support his innovative work. His current grant "Sweet Cap" is by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

In his faculty role at UF, Resende often works with farmers to help increase their yields and to breed corn specific to their needs. A main research goal is to produce sweeter corn, as well as more visually appealing ears of corn. Resende says that a sweeter ear of corn will have a longer shelf life. "In order to make corn sweeter, I have to block the starch synthesis. This makes more sugar and therefore increases the shelf life." Dr. Resende explained that the US has a higher demand for sweeter produce. His lab is also working to breed corn that is resistant to insects and worms because oftentimes, corn that is half eaten by pests in the field is not usable and thrown away.

To learn more about Dr. Resende's research, you can follow his lab at: <https://www.resendelab.com/> and his Twitter: @Marcioresende.jr

By: Tommy Burnes and Gage Chancey

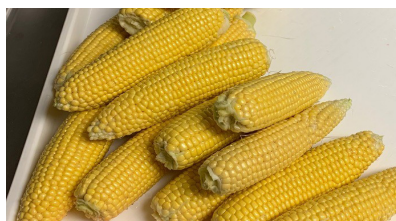


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