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*Zea mays everata*

**POPCORN** is an annual grass.

It is also known as *Popkornmajs* (Swedish).

The grain when exposed to heat will puff up and ‘pop’ giving lightweight, soft white masses.

*Mays* is a corruption of Cuban and Haitian *mahiz* (maize) meaning ‘our mother’.

This species is said to have been developed as a crop by the ancient Peruvians.

Authorities point out however that it is probably the North American Iroquois tribe in particular to whom we owe thanks for today’s familiar popcorn. They mixed their maize with hot sand then cooked this mixture slowly until the kernels exploded.