

Experimental Replication of 17th Century Native Agriculture: A Methodological Approach to Northeastern North America

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The objective of this research is to replicate traditional systems of corn cultivation based on first-hand descriptions by early contact European explorers/Jesuits (c. 1600 A.D.) and substantiated by the memory of Six Nations agriculturalists today. With over 65% of the Native diet fulfilled by corn, both Champlain (c. 1615) and Sagard (c. 1624) agree that corn was “their principal food and usual sustenance”. Flint and soft/flour corn best encompass the description of what has been found on archaeological sites, and in the writings of the early observers. The traditional variety “Iroquois White Flour Corn” (*Zea mays amylacea*) has been used to accomplish the goals of this research.