

Corn Stover

DESCRIPTION

Corn stover is the stalks that remain after the corn has been harvested. Stover has low water content and is very bulky. Field corn stover and sweet corn stover are not significantly different. Stover is not widely harvested after the grain is taken, and some agronomists question whether taking stover out of the field annually will have a negative impact on soil fertility and structure.

CLASSIFICATION

Lignocellulosic biomass

SOURCE INDUSTRY

Corn farming. See the [Grains & Crops industry roadmap](#).

ANNUAL VOLUME GENERATED IN WISCONSIN

5.5–7 million tons¹

CURRENT APPLICATIONS

Bedding, ethanol², soil additive

PRICE

\$35-\$40/ton¹

APPLICABLE BIOREFINING PROCESSES

[Anaerobic digestion](#), [biomass gasification](#), [combustion](#), [fast pyrolysis](#), [fermentation of lignocellulosic biomass](#), [fiber composites manufacturing](#), [thermochemical liquefaction](#)

REFERENCES

¹ Glassner, David A., James R. Hettenhaus, Thomas M. Schechinger. 1998. Corn stover collection project. <http://www.ctic.purdue.edu/Core4/bio98paper.pdf> (8 April 2004)

² "What is a life cycle assessment?" (2002) <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/gen/fy02/31792.pdf> (8 April 2004)