

Hill Farms Market

When Don and Ruth Hill moved to the 100-acre farm on Highway 6 & 10 just north of Chatsworth, it was a homecoming for Don who was raised on the property. He left home as a teenager to study at the University of Guelph and graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College in 1962. Later he worked as a Field Crop Specialist, during which time he met Ruth, who had completed a degree in education. Ruth has a strong interest in horticulture and also a farm background, having lived at Pickering Farms as a child where her father was Poultry and Egg Manager. The couple moved to Grey County in the mid-seventies to raise livestock and added the market garden several years later.



Hill Farms Market started as a table by the roadside, and evolved into a shed and finally a stand. Five acres gradually developed into fifteen acres planted with a large variety of vegetables and flowers. Sweet corn, picked fresh from the field, is the Hills' specialty crop. They explain that a lot of breeding work was done on corn in the eighties with the result that most sweet corn is now bi-colour (containing both white and yellow kernels) and available in three sweetness types: sugary enhanced, super sweet, and Gourmet. The Hills grow primarily the early-ripening sugary enhanced varieties and the Gourmet variety (owned by Stokes Seeds) which tastes like the super sweet but is very tender. Seeds go in the ground as early as possible so corn season at the market generally starts in mid July and lasts until Thanksgiving.

You can buy Hill Farms produce at the **Keady Market** (spring until fall), the **Owen Sound Farmers Market** (year round) and at their market stand (May until October).
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Hills' produce

Sweet corn

Beans, peas, beets, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, potatoes, muskmelons
Tomato, cucumber and pumpkin transplants
Baskets of annual flowers and tumbling cherry tomato plants
Cut flowers - tulips (first in spring), lilies, snapdragons, gladiolas, dahlias, sunflowers
Lilies and other perennials