



Grainseed Ltd.



UNIT 3, AIRFIELD INDUSTRIAL PARK, LANGTON GREEN, EYE, SUFFOLK, IP23 7HN

Telephone: (01379) 871073 Fax: (01379) 871038 Email info@grainseed.co.uk

F A X M E S S A G E

DATE: 07/10/2014

TIME: 08:31:42

TO:

FAX:

FROM: NEIL GROOM

RE: Farmers Weekly Maize Dry Matters Week 7

CC:

Number of pages including cover sheet:

Message

Maize harvest slows as weather changes

Site	Drill date	Ht above sea level (m)	Crop dry matter 1 October	Increase from last week
Petworth, Sussex	22 April	50	Harvested	-
Harleston, Norfolk	24 April	30	Harvested	-
Crediton, Devon	23 April	118	Harvested	-
Ticknall, Derbyshire	4 May	67	Harvested	-
Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire*	16 May	32	28.7	+ 2.6
SRUC, Dumfries, Scotland PLASTIC	23 April	45	30.9	+ 0.5
SRUC, Dumfries, Scotland*	23 April	45	25.1	+ 2.5

* Variety Es Picker, all other sites are Es Ballade. Variety under plastic Es Marco.

Maize harvesting conditions have become more challenging with a change to rain and cooler conditions in many regions reports Neil Groom, Technical Director for Grainseed Ltd.

“This spell of low pressure has seen increased cloud cover and reduced the threat of frosts which, although makes harvesting more difficult, ensures that the plant doesn’t get frosted and loose sugars whilst the plant is still converting sugar to starch” reckons Mr Groom.

“What happens when a crop is frosted is that the plant cells freeze and explode and the sugars contained within the leaf are lost. There is then the opportunity for moulds and fungi to grow on the dead leaf tissue if a badly frosted crop is left in the field for a long time.”

“If just the top leaves are frosted don’t worry, but if frosted below the cob then get the field chopped. Walk in off the headlands since it is often just the outside rows that are affected by cold winds. “

Speaking to many growers around the country and during the SW Dairy event last week it is clear that the majority of crops have a fully ripe cob that is full of starch attached to a green plant. Those crops that have been harvested on the green side report juice running from the clamp. This needs to be collected in the effluent tanks for the clamp.

Robert Parker sampling for Farmers Weekly in Derbyshire adds “We have a superb crop this season, I think the best ever. We have harvested the early drilled maize and the rest will be ready in another week’s time. For us the starch is the key reason we grow maize and I am quite comfortable leaving the later drilled fields to mature fully”.