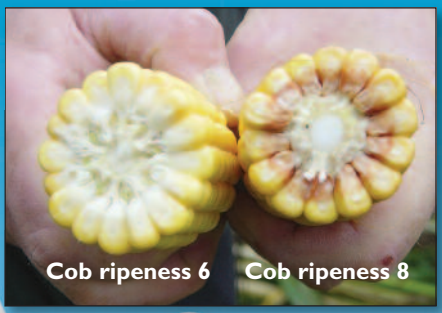
COB RIPENESS

A measure of a varieties true maturity

	Variety	Cob Ripe Oversite mean	Cob Ripening days after Picker	Grainseed Maturity Group
MARGINAL SITES COB RIPENESS CRITICAL	ES ARDENT	8.3	+2	11
	ES PICKER	8.5	Control	10
	ES REMINGTON	8.2	+3	9
BIG YIELDS AND EARLY	ES BODYGUARD	8.0	+5	8
	ES BALLADE	7.9	+6	8
	DULY	7.7	+8	8
	DOMINATOR	7.6	+9	8
	MARCO	7.5	+10	7
MAXIMISE YIELD	DUALTO	6.9	+16	7
	CATHY	6.7	+18	7
	ES KIRA	6.7	+18	7
	HOBBIT	6.6	+19	6

source: Maizetech cob ripeness scores 3 weeks before harvest.
All varieties in trial scored on same day giving range of maturity in field.



To maximise the digestibility and feed value of your maize silage you should aim to harvest when the cob is firm with only the slightest drop of moisture able to be squeezed out of the grain with the plant itself still having some green leaf present.

When a variety with poor cob ripeness is grown in an area with lower available heat units, there can be a noticeable delay in grain maturity, reducing crop dry matter, starch content and feeding value of the silage. Always grow a variety with proven cob ripeness.

Days after Picker

In our development of relevant information for growers we have analysed all the Cob Ripeness data across the sites and seasons to create a **Number of Cob Ripening days after Picker** rating. This allows growers to understand the approximate difference in maturity between our varieties.

Field effects will have a major impact on the speed of grain dry down and therefore growing Picker on a marginal maize site at 600' and Marco on a favourable field at 200' could allow harvest of both crops on the same harvest date. Since we expect in a normal season there to be 10 days difference in Picker and Marco if grown in the same field.

Grainseed Ltd

COB RIPENESS

A measure of a varieties true maturity

Cob ripeness is the field indicator farmers use to see if maize crops are ready to harvest, it is a measurement of the speed of starch lay down and grain maturity of the cob in different maturity groups. MGA maturity groups are determined through whole plant dry matter and do not take into account the true grain maturity. Many varieties appear to have good NIAB dry matters but gain that through rapid plant death induced by fusarium and not true cob maturity. This leads to low Dry Matter silage in the clamp and an increased risk of **acidosis**.

Needs 2 weeks **Call contractor** **Harvest now**

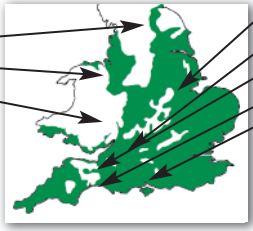
NIAB Dry Matters - only a guide

The NIAB Less Favourable list can be misleading and should only be used as a guide as less than 50% of the official data is gathered from marginal sites. The remaining data, which is over 50%, comes from good productive trial sites not representative of more marginal growers. The map below shows the site locations used by NIAB for this data superimposed onto the map of the country where very early varieties that require 1200 heat units can be grown.

NIAB Sites

Northallerton, N Yorks
Chester, Cheshire
Hereford, Herefordshire

Marginal sites used by NIAB on Less Favourable list. These represent less than 50% of marginal data.



Newark, Nottinghamshire
Lackham, Wiltshire
Taunton, Somerset
Bicton, Devon
Sherbourne, Dorset

Productive sites used by NIAB to collate marginal data for marginal growers. Not representative sites. These represent more than 50% of the data.