



# Grainseed Ltd.



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## F A X M E S S A G E

**DATE:** 15/09/2015

**TIME:** 9:51 AM

**TO:**

**FAX:**

**FROM: NEIL GROOM**

**RE:** Farmers Weekly Maize Dry Matters Week 1

**CC:**

Number of pages including cover sheet:

### **Message**

## **Indian summer required for maize**

| Site                             | Drill date | Ht above sea level (m) | Crop dry matter 8 September | Increase from last week |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Petworth, Sussex                 | 25 April   | 50                     | 24.1                        |                         |
| Harleston, Norfolk               | 5 May      | 30                     | 18.0                        |                         |
| Crediton, Devon                  | 21 April   | 118                    | 18.4                        |                         |
| Ticknall, Derbyshire             | 22 April   | 67                     | 20.0                        |                         |
| Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire*      | 4 May      | 32                     | 16.8                        |                         |
| SRUC, Dumfries, Scotland PLASTIC | 22 April   | 45                     | 15.1                        |                         |
| SRUC, Dumfries, Scotland*        | 22 April   | 45                     | 14.7                        |                         |

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

Most maize growers have good bulky crops this year, but with the cold spring and wet August the maize harvest is going to be later this year unless we get an Indian summer that accelerates maize maturity reckons Neil Groom, Technical Director for maize specialists Grainseeds.

Modern maize varieties can achieve increases in crop dry matter of 5% or more in September so if we get an Indian summer with bright sunny weather and good drying winds we could see a rapid acceleration in maize maturity. If this occurs growers need to look at crops at least twice a week.

Grain maturity of early drilled crops on good sites in East Anglia and along the South Coast are currently at the cheese-ripe grain stage making crops 2-3 weeks away from harvest. But on more challenging sites with less heat units than cobs have swollen grains and the very start of starch lay down with a hint of yellowing in the grains, these crops are probably 5-6 weeks away from harvest reckons Neil.

Growers are encouraged to wait for full maize maturity to ensure that quality silage is clamped for winter feeding of livestock or as AD feedstock. As maize matures the sugars in the plant are converted to starch in the grains which is more stable in the clamp and drives production.

With good maize stocks left from the bumper year in 2014 then most growers have some carry over. Don't allow this to be buried in the back of the clamp when the new season maize comes in, but re-clamp the residue so that it can continue to be fed and the new maize can be sealed for 6-8 weeks before feeding so that full fermentation occurs.