



# Grainseed Ltd.



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

**DATE:** 18/09/2015

**TIME:** 6:44 PM

**TO:**

**FAX:**

**FROM: NEIL GROOM**

**RE:** Farmers Weekly Maize Dry Matters Week 2

**CC:**

Number of pages including cover sheet:

### **Message**

## **Maize in good growing regions on verge of harvest**

Site	Drill date	Ht above sea level (m)	Crop dry matter 15 September	Increase from last week
Petworth, Sussex	25 April	50	26.5	+ 2.4
Harleston, Norfolk	5 May	30	21.1	+ 3.1
Crediton, Devon	21 April	118	22.7	+ 4.3
Ticknall, Derbyshire	22 April	67	23.5	+ 3.5
Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire*	4 May	32	20.5	+ 3.7
SRUC, Dumfries, Scotland PLASTIC	22 April	45	16.9	+ 1.8
SRUC, Dumfries, Scotland*	22 April	45	15.4	+ 0.7

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

Maize on sandy soils in East Anglia and the South coast will be on the verge of harvest by the time Farmers Weekly is printed on the 25<sup>th</sup> September reckons Neil Groom Technical Director of Grainseed Ltd. Many of these crops are currently cheesy ripe in grain maturity although plants are still very green to the bottom leaves.

Further west and on colder, heavier soils there is still a way to go before crops reach full maturity and for best feeding results crops should be left to achieve their full potential.

John Hancock sampling for Farmers Weekly near Petworth in Sussex comments that an assessment of his fields shows that sheltered fields which were not exposed to the cold easterly winds last spring are a week ahead in maturity and he intends to wait until the turn of the month before cutting his crops.

“We will chop the driest fields first and clamp them in the base of the clamp and put the less mature maize on the top. I have one field drilled after first cut grass in mid May which will still be juicy but the drier silage will soak this up and we want to cut all the fields at one time rather than reopen the clamp later” says John.

Neil advises growers to walk into the field from a couple of different points and assess plants away from the headland, look at both grain maturity by peeling and cracking open cobs and also look at the amount of moisture in the stem by twisting to see if juice runs out.

“Grains should be hard with only the smallest droplet of moisture coming out of the base of the grains. I always open up half a dozen cobs to assess evenness of maturity because you naturally select the ripest looking to open up initially”.