



Grainseed Ltd.



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

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Message

Prepare for maize harvest now

Site	Drill date	Ht above sea level (m)	Crop dry matter 11 September	Increase from last week
Petworth, Sussex	4 May	50	27.3	+ 2.1
Harleston, Norfolk	2 May	30	24.8	+ 0.4
Crediton, Devon	25 April	118	26.2	+ 2.2
Ticknall, Derbyshire	1 May	67	21.2	+ 2.6
Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire*	4 May	32	23.5	+ 5.3
SRUC, Dumfries, Scotland PLASTIC	30 April	45	22.6	+ 0.3
SRUC, Dumfries, Scotland*	30 April	45	19.3	+ 0.4

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

Maize growers are advised to get ready for harvest now as the crop matures rapidly towards harvest notes Neil Groom Technical Director of Grainseed Ltd. "We've visited a lot of crops this week, along the South Coast, East Anglia, Lincolnshire and the Midlands and many crops will be ready in favorable areas to harvest at the turn of the month and where less heat is available by the 10th October".

For many growers it will be where to clamp the maize since crops have grown well with a lot of plant bulk and good, well fertilised cobs. “Remember over 50% of the yield is from the cob and grain so overall height is not an important criteria, but there are certainly some monster crops out there”.

“With good yields this harvest many growers will be able to replace forage stocks and this could allow buffer feeding next summer, so ensure you harvest at the optimum dry matter content of 30% so that you achieve the best possible quality of the maize clamped”.

If you have some maize left in the back of the clamp you can move it into another smaller clamp for feeding whilst the new crop matures. Roll well as you reclamp to exclude air and it will continue to store well.

Simple things like making space in the yard, filling holes in field gateways and deciding harvesting order for fields will all help ensure that harvest progresses smoothly on the day. If your travelling along small lanes it maybe beneficial to create a 1 way system for the trailers.

Many maize crops have milky starch in the grains and these will rapidly finish as the crop converts sugars in the leaf to starch in the grains reckons Neil. “The plant is an annual and wants to produce seed (grain) for next year so it wants to lay down starch. We spend a lot of time looking at the cob ripeness of varieties to ensure that they complete the lifecycle quickly enabling livestock farmers to benefit from as much maize starch in the silage as possible”.