

Grainseed Ltd.



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

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Message

First maize crops harvested show real promise

Site	Drill date	Ht above sea level (m)	Crop dry matter 11 September	Increase from last week
Petworth, Sussex	4 May	50	30.1	+ 2.8
Harleston, Norfolk	2 May	30	26.5	+ 1.7
Crediton, Devon	25 April	118	27.4	+ 1.2
Ticknall, Derbyshire	1 May	67	21.2	+ 0
Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire*	4 May	32	24.5	+ 1
SRUC, Dumfries, Scotland PLASTIC	30 April	45	24.3	+ 1.7
SRUC, Dumfries, Scotland*	30 April	45	19.7	+ 0.4

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

The first maize crops have now been cut in Favourable areas of the country reports Neil Groom Technical Director for Grainseed Ltd. "They show real promise with high yields in both plant and grain with growers getting good maturity that will produce the ideal silage of 30% dry matter".

Growers in areas with less heat units are seeing early starch lay down in the grain, but be patient and get optimal silage that's fully mature and balance the grass silage stocks well.

Bill Blake sampling for Farmers Weekly near Crediton reckons his crops are 10 days away from harvest. "We grew 25 acres under plastic to have an early harvest to ensure high quality maize in the cows ration as they calve down and so that we didn't rush the main harvest. My crops are short since we are in a rain shadow here and we only had 6mm rain during June and July, but the cobs are huge and we'll have fantastic silage".

Neil advises growers to plant a crop after maize harvest "Even if it's wet when you harvest the soil under the maize will be dry so get it cultivated and sown to wheat or grass seeds to reduce soil erosion. Work by Maize Growers has shown there is a huge reduction in soil wash once land has been cultivated and opened up and sowing a crop will provide a root mass which further holds soil particles together and prevents soil erosion."

" I prefer to graze any grass in the spring if the field is returning to maize production since there is a risk of utilising all the water for grass silage and having very dry maize seedbeds with delayed germination if the grass is left until first cut."

Italian ryegrasses, Westerwolds or forage rye all have excellent vigor and will quickly form a canopy in maize stubble fields. Winter corn is also good and allows growers the freedom of whole crop, crimping or dry grain harvest next year once first cut yields has been accomplished. " Your fields are an asset and need to be continually growing a crop to make you money".