

# Grainseed Ltd.



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

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

**DATE:** 30/09/2013

**TIME:** 13:11:37

**TO:**

**FAX:**

**FROM:** NEIL GROOM

**RE:**

**CC:**

Number of pages including cover sheet:

### **Message**

### **Maize crops performing well**

Site	Drill date	Ht above sea level (m)	Crop dry matter 25 September	Increase from last week
Petworth, Sussex	4 May	50	31.4	+ 1.3
Harleston, Norfolk	2 May	30	29.7	+ 3.2
Crediton, Devon	25 April	118	31.4	+ 4.0
Ticknall, Derbyshire	1 May	67	20.6	- 0.6
Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire*	4 May	32	28.3	+ 3.8
SRUC, Dumfries, Scotland PLASTIC	30 April	45	23.9	- 0.4
SRUC, Dumfries, Scotland*	30 April	45	22.4	+ 2.7

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

Maize crops are really filling the clamps well this harvest with growers reporting high yields, very early grain maturity and good dry down of the plants notes Neil Groom, Technical Director for Grainseed Ltd.

"It's good to see everyone having an excellent harvest and the maize crop will replace the first cut grass silage stocks which in general have been fed throughout the summer. Some growers in areas

with less heat have cut a small area early to have maize back in the diet whilst the rest of the crop continues maturing and reaches full maturity in mid October as normal.”

As the autumn progresses then weather conditions will turn more catchy. Be prepared to use sweepers on public roads to ensure highways are kept clean and if possible use farm tracks to get trailers clean before coming out onto the road. Filling sunken gateways with hardcore now whilst gateways are dry will reduce any muddy puddles in the gate entrance's.

All stubble fields should be sown with a crop or cultivated to ensure that winter rainfall soaks into the soil rather than running off across the soil surface causing soil erosion and pollution in watercourses. A simple tine pulled through the field will bust surface pans from harvesting machinery. “You need to dig a hole to understand where the compacted layers are in the soil profile and then you can operate the cultivator at the correct depth rather than working over deep to be on the safe side”.

Where possible keep maize clamped for 6 weeks before feeding since the grain becomes more available as acids in the clamp soften and breaks down the starch grains. Growers always report maize performing better with higher milk yields and growth rates after Christmas than before.

“It will be important to get your maize silage analysed this winter after it has stabilised in the clamp for 6 weeks because we have more plant material and good cobs this season. You can't assume standard silage analysis results in the ration programs this year - you must sample” advises Mr Groom.