



Grainseed Ltd.



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DATE: 26/08/2014

TIME: 09:40:36

TO:

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FROM: NEIL GROOM

RE: Farmers Weekly Maize Dry Matters Week 1

CC:

Number of pages including cover sheet:

Message

Superb spring boosts maize growth

Site	Drill date	Ht above sea level (m)	Crop dry matter 20 August	Increase from last week
Petworth, Sussex	22 April	50	23.5	
Harleston, Norfolk	24 April	30	25.5	
Crediton, Devon	23 April	118	26.3	
Ticknall, Derbyshire	4 May	67	-	
Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire*	16 May	32	18.2	
SRUC, Dumfries, Scotland PLASTIC	23 April	45	20.5	
SRUC, Dumfries, Scotland*	23 April	45	17.5	

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

The good weather last spring resulted in early maize drilling with the main planting window occurring in the last 10 days of April, on average a full week earlier than last year. "Some growers achieved good seedbeds around the 10th April and drilled then and the crops have responded during the good spring weather when temperatures were high" reports Neil Groom Technical Director for Grainseed Ltd.

“In general the good weather continued throughout May and June allowing more nutrients to be released from organic manures and we have some very bulky crops this season”. Rain at flowering has ensured good fertilisation and we have some big cobs which are well filled and starch lay down has started early.

All six growers for Farmers Weekly report some of the bulkiest crops on their farms ever and a return to fine weather would result in an early harvest as maize crops can mature very quickly in September. “Maize dry matters can increase by 4% or more per week in September especially if the weather is warm and windy so make sure you look at the crop twice a week to monitor crop maturity” advises Mr Groom.