



# Grainseed Ltd.



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

**DATE:** 15/09/2014

**TIME:** 16:22:24

**TO:**

**FAX:**

**FROM: NEIL GROOM**

**RE:** Farmers Weekly Maize Dry Matters Week 4

**CC:**

Number of pages including cover sheet:

### **Message**

### **Maize fills clamps with quality forage**

Site	Drill date	Ht above sea level (m)	Crop dry matter 10 September	Increase from last week
Petworth, Sussex	22 April	50	27.8	+ 2.5
Harleston, Norfolk	24 April	30	27.5	+ 1.8
Crediton, Devon	23 April	118	28.6	+ 3.5
Ticknall, Derbyshire	4 May	67	28.6	+3.8
Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire*	16 May	32	22.3	+2.4
SRUC, Dumfries, Scotland PLASTIC	23 April	45	24.8	+0.2
SRUC, Dumfries, Scotland*	23 April	45	20.5	+0.6

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

The increased sunshine hours this season has seen maize growers clamping high quality maize with growers in mainstream areas having a good run at cutting in the last week and crops in the Midlands and south west reaching full maturity now.

Assess your crops twice a week advises Neil Groom Technical Director for Grainseed. "Walk well lto the crop away from the gateway and assess 5 plants in a row. We need grain to be fully mature with

no juice being squeezed from the base and the stems to be dry. Twist the stem between two nodes to see if juice runs out."

Looking at the results from the Farmers Weekly farms we can see that the good weather has caused dry matters to increase by 2-3%. John Hancock in Sussex comments that his crop is still green and he expects to harvest on Monday. "Grains are rock hard but the stem is still juicy so I will wait until next week to maximise feed value, we will then get ploughing and drill wheat straight behind the maize".

With good forage stocks on many farms and grass still out in the field then some clamps can be shut up and allowed to cure before feeding. "Ideally maize should be ensiled for 6 weeks before feeding to allow the starch to become fully accessible to the cattle and so feeding grass and whole crop until December could be advantageous suggest Mr. Groom".

Consider further use of the field too, if returning to maize then use a grubber to open up the soil structure after harvest. This will allow winter rains to soak into the soil rather than runoff, losing nutrients and top soil. It's being responsible to your neighbours and best practice. Growing a catch crop or rotating is best so that a growing plant is in the soil benefitting the soil structure.