



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

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TIME: 11:24:35

TO: Maize dry matters 2011

FAX:

FROM: Neil Groom

RE: Week 3

CC:

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Message



Warm weather matures maize rapidly

Site	Drill date	Ht above sea level (m)	Crop dry matter 21 September	Increase from last week
Petworth, Sussex	27 th April	50	30.9	-0.5
Harleston, Norfolk	20 th April	30	33.4	+3.7
Crediton, Devon	19 th April	118	24.5	+0.7
Ticknall, Derbyshire	15 th April	67	29.7	+2.6
Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire*	2 nd May	32	18.5	-1.8
Leyburn, N. Yorks *	23 rd April	140	26.6	+2.6
SAC, Dumfries, Scotland*	22 nd April	45	18.5	-2.1

* Variety Es Picker, all other sites are Es Ballade

The excellent warm weather in many areas of the country have really helped mature maize crops rapidly reports Neil Groom, Technical Director of Grainseed Ltd.

“In most areas of the UK we now have at least milky starch in the maize cobs as the plant sugars from photosynthesis are moved from the leaf into starch in the grain. The good weather has really helped accelerate this process and means that those growers in areas with little or no summer sunshine could still clamp maize with starch in - if they are patient”.

Maize watch grower John Hancock farming near Petworth in Sussex has harvested some fields already. “The crops in sheltered fields that established rapidly last spring have been chopped with excellent yields. We did come near to irrigating the maize last June, but rain perked the crop up and we are very pleased to have maize back in the ration now – the cows look better for it”.

With good weather all crops will rapidly accumulate maturity so it's worth talking to your contractor to ensure they are able to come when your crop is fit. There is at least a 10 day window between crops at 28% - the minimum for cutting and 35% when the crop starts to get over mature, so don't panic.

If your crop is very dry, due to drought or harvest delay, then shorten the chop length to aid consolidation in the clamp and also consider using an additive to help stabilise the clamp during feedout, especially if you will be summer buffer feeding.

“Get ready for the harvesting team now, clear the yard so access to the clamp is easy, make sure there are no big holes in the gateways and get the clamp ready with sidesheets, top sheets and secure covers to prevent bird damage to the clamp. Normal black sheets have very small holes in. but there are now sheets which form an oxygen barrier so that there will be no waste at all on top of the clamp”.

“Load the clamp in thin layers and keep rolling the silage in tight” advises Mr Groom. “If there is space on the clamp then get two tractors up there. The more rolling done the better the silage that is made – you just cant over do it”.