



agrovista
seeds



Maize

key varieties

2026
season

#SeedTheDifference

“

Simplified choice Expertly selected

Our expertise and rigorous assessment of both established and new seed varieties enable us to offer you a superior, short-listed selection. We simplify your seed decision process, giving you more time to focus on your farm.

#SeedTheDifference

Welcome

to the Agrovista 2026 maize brochure

As ever the challenges of growing a successful maize crop have proved many and varied in 2026.

Early drilled crops benefitted from what little soil moisture was available in what proved to be one of the driest drilling windows in recent memory.

Conditions hardly improved in the early part of the season and those growing maize on the lightest land really did start to suffer as temperatures soared but rainfall remained elusive. Certain regions did gain some relief towards the end of July and into August with limited rainfall keeping yield potential acceptable if not exciting.

Less favourable regions such as South West Scotland, Cumbria and Lancashire have seen some very impressive crops as these regions still had adequate rainfall but benefitted from much higher temperatures than usual.

In many areas harvest was pretty much over by mid-September which has enabled a significant amount of short term catch cropping such as forage rye and short term ryegrasses to be drilled to try and make up the forage shortfall in livestock regions.

SFI created a much greater interest in undersowing the maize crop and we can offer solutions for SAM2, CSAM2 and SOH4 schemes which are both profitable and benefit the environment. What will replace these schemes is yet to be announced but hopefully some financial incentive for undersowing the maize crop will be retained.

Seed treatment options include the bird repellent Korit for 2026 but we anticipate this product being withdrawn from the market at some point in 2027. Alternative bird repellent products are currently undergoing evaluation so hopefully we will have a seamless transition from Korit to a replacement product when the time comes.

I hope you enjoy our maize brochure and please contact your local Agrovista agronomist if you require further information.



NIGEL WALLEY
National Seed Manager

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Expert advice

for every stage of maize production

Within this brochure you will find our selection of the best maize seed varieties on the market. We can advise on all aspects of maize production including;

Seed selection

Our variety trials and experience in your local area means variety choices are suited to the local conditions.

Nutrient planning

Comprehensive nutrient plans can be created to maximise the potential of your maize crop.



Soil health analysis

We offer a range of options providing full nutritional, physical and biological soil analysis with detailed reports to give you practical solutions to unlock your soils full potential.

For soil health information visit www.agrovista.co.uk/soil-health

Maize establishment and SFI cover crop options

Seed rate and cultivation advice for optimum establishment and maturity of the maize crop. Agrovista are also market leaders in the advice and supply of SAM2, CSAM2 and SOH4 cover crop mixtures for your maize crop.

Weed control

It is crucial to gain good weed control in maize. Early weed competition has a considerable impact on final yields. Our team of agronomists can advise on herbicide choice and timing.



Pests and disease

Advice on effective IPM strategies to reduce pest damage and preventative fungicide programmes to minimise disease in high risk situations.



Harvest and ensiling

Tailored advice on harvest dates to help maximise dry matter and starch yield. Best practice for ensiling crops to minimise in clamp losses and advice on the correct silage inoculant depending on end use and harvest quality parameters.



Speak to your local Agrovista agronomist for advice on the stages of your maize production.



KWS Cito

enables flexible
crop rotations



As growers look ahead to next season, KWS Maize Product Manager Andrew Cook outlines the benefits of their ultra early variety Cito.

"The short-season variety Cito is proving a reliable choice for livestock producers aiming for a high-starch silage or grain," says Andrew. "It's classified as an ultra-early variety, offering an early harvest window and the opportunity for late planting in challenging farm situations, or for

early feed-out in a difficult forage growing season. "It has produced consistently high starch levels in trials, with an ME average above 12. One frequent comment from growers is its 'good-looking' cob, which delivers the goods as part of a ruminant ration."

Farm case study

At Cottage Farm in Atherstone, Warwickshire, dairy farmer Andrew Sutton and his family have been growing Cito since 2020, valuing its short-season profile and suitability for high-starch silage.

The crop averages 17–18 tonnes acre fresh weight across 120 acres and is fed at a 60–65% inclusion rate to the 12,500 kg, award-winning 'Hurcott' Holstein herd. The Suttons are previous winners of the Holstein UK 'Master Breeder' award, which is given for herds producing top results across three categories: classification, production and longevity.

Maize has been grown for the dairy herd at Cottage Farm since 1991. It currently forms part of the TMR for the 200 cows, which are milked in robots. Some 120 acres of Cito were planted for the 2025 growing year, with the crop sown on mainly sandy/silt loam soil, and usually following grass in the rotation.

"Cito fits well with our double-cropping approach," says Andrew. "An early harvest gives flexibility—cutting in September means we can reseed with grass straight after, and the silage is ready for use by mid-October if needed."

The farm has also transitioned from three-times-a-day milking to a robotic system. "It's been a great move for us. The cows do well on maize silage, and Cito's starch content supports strong yields. Choosing the right maize variety makes a big difference to herd performance, and this one works well for our system. In our opinion, it has what we call the 'feedability' factor."

Nigel Walley, National Seed Sales Manager at Agrovista Seeds, says Cito demonstrates the balance growers are looking for between reliability, flexibility, and feed quality.

"Across a range of soil types and growing regions, we're seeing strong and consistent performance from Cito. It's no coincidence that the variety is the top selling ultra early hybrid in the UK and has been for a number of years" he notes. "Cito has clear strengths for different systems and the combination of early vigour, yield security and digestible energy helps producers make the most of their maize crop."



Variety	KWS Cito
Grower	Andrew Sutton
Location	Cottage Farm, Hurley, Warwickshire

“



Cito fits well with our double-cropping approach. An early harvest gives flexibility—cutting in September means we can reseed with grass straight after, and the silage is ready for use by mid-October if needed.

Andrew Sutton

Instinct™

Get the most from your nitrogen



Getting the best return from any maize crop is based on two things – choosing the right variety for your circumstances and providing your crop with adequate nutrition.

Nitrogen is core to fulfilling a maize crop's yield potential, but it's a balancing act – too little and the crop's yield will be limited; too much is not only uneconomical, but it has consequences for the environment.

Nitrogen stabilisers, such as Instinct™, slow down the conversion of ammonium to nitrate and keep nitrogen available to crops for longer to optimise yield and quality.

Instinct will do three things:

- Keep more nitrogen in the soil for longer
- Maximise the yield potential of the crop
- Reduce nitrogen escape into the environment

Maximise the yield potential of your crop

By keeping more nitrogen in the soil for longer, the chances of a crop fulfilling its potential are increased. There have been many trials across the UK and Europe that look at the impact Instinct has on maize yield; the results of which are shown in the chart on the right.

In the UK, yield increases of more than 10% have been seen, especially if the crop is grown on light soils in high rainfall areas and where total nitrogen rates were moderate.

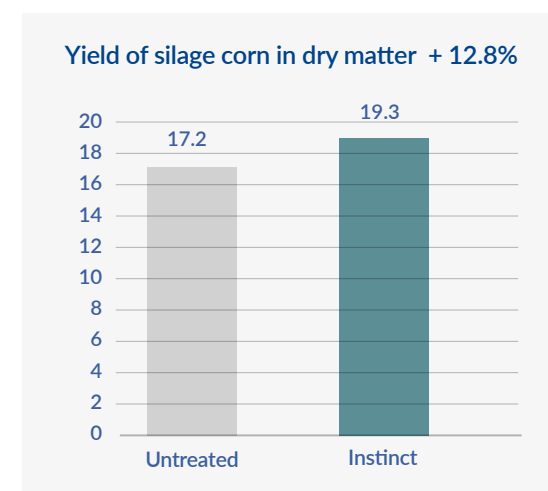
These trials were conducted using a variety of fertiliser types – urea, UAN, AN, slurry and digestate.

If the fertiliser contains ammonium, Instinct stabilises the ammonium, keeping more in the soil for longer, just when the crop needs it.

Instinct optimises nitrogen

Maize is an ideal crop for Instinct as it typically requires more fertiliser than it receives, which means it's extremely important to keep as much nitrogen in the soil as possible, for as long possible, and it needs more nitrogen later in its life than other crops. Instinct does both – preventing loss of nitrogen, and extending its availability.

Results of 43 trials



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KWS Portobello is a new FAO 160-170 variety from the leading maize breeder in the UK. Capable of producing over 18 tonnes of dry matter per hectare which is exceptional for such an early maturing variety.

USE PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS SAFELY. Always read the label and product information before use. For further information including warning phrases and symbols refer to label. Corteva Agriscience UK Limited, CPC2 Capital Park, Fulbourn, Cambridge CB21 5XE. Tel: 01462 457272. ®, ™ Trademarks of Corteva Agriscience and its affiliated companies. All other brand names are trademarks of other manufacturers for which proprietary rights may exist. All manufacturers tradenames and trademarks are duly acknowledged. © 2021 Corteva. Instinct™ contains nitrpyrin (Optinyte™).



Maize varieties

Key to icons

The icons that appear alongside the variety description indicate potential use.



Forage maize



Maize grown under plastic film using the SAMCO System



Energy maize



Grain maize

Ultra-early maturity

KWS Cito FAO 150



KWS Cito is the earliest variety in the KWS portfolio and is a first-choice variety on both the NIAB BSPB favourable and less favourable descriptive lists.

- Cito boasts the highest levels of starch, ME and cell wall digestibility of any of the ultra-early competitors and remains the best option for those looking for early harvest and maximum feed value
- Cito consistently produces very large mature cobs and is well proven over a range of soil types and geographical areas
- With more focus being given to the environmental aspects of growing maize, Cito offers the opportunity to grow an extremely energy dense crop and be able to harvest early minimising soil damage and road contamination

Dry matter content at harvest %	40.9
ME at harvest (mj/kg dry matter)	12.02
Starch content at harvest %	41.5
Cell wall digestibility %	58.2
Early vigour (1-9)	6.8
Standing power (1-9)	7.8

Data from NIAB/BSPB trials

KWS Portobello FAO 160-170



KWS Portobello is a new FAO 160-170 variety from the leading maize breeder in the UK. Capable of producing over 18 tonnes of dry matter per hectare which is exceptional for such an early maturing variety.

- Starch levels of up to 40% along with high levels of ME and cell wall digestibility make Portobello a truly outstanding high feed value variety which ticks all the boxes for an early maturing maize variety
- As well as being suitable for high performance livestock regimes Portobello also has a place as the early variety in a balanced energy maize portfolio due to its dry matter yield exceeding that of far later maturing varieties traditionally used in that sector

Dry matter content at harvest %	38.3
ME at harvest (mj/kg dry matter)	11.61
Starch content at harvest %	38.5
Cell wall digestibility %	56.3
Early vigour (1-9)	7.1
Standing power (1-9)	8.0

Data from NIAB/BSPB trials

Early maturity

P7326 FAO 170



P7326 is now firmly established as a consistent performer over a range of soil types and geographical locations.

- P7326 has been one of the biggest selling varieties in the UK for the past five years and benefits from early maturity and robust eyespot and fusarium tolerance
- For those looking for consistent yield and feed quality allied with good standing ability and early maturity, P7326 is the perfect compromise

Dry matter content at harvest %	37.18
ME at harvest (mj/kg dry matter)	12.85
Starch content at harvest %	37.06
Whole plant digestibility %	75.31
Early vigour (1-9)	7.5
Standing power (1-9)	7.0

Data from Pioneer PACTS trials

LG Bonnevie FAO 170-180



New variety from Limagrain currently undergoing descriptive list trials.

- Data from national list trials shows Bonnevie as having very high feed value being suitable for both forage and energy maize situations
- Bonnevie has also demonstrated above average tolerance to very dry or drought conditions
- Excellent cell wall digestibility and ME figures ensure the variety is well suited to high yielding livestock enterprises be that either dairy or beef
- Very high gas yield potential also makes Bonnevie a leading contender for the early variety in a balanced energy maize portfolio with good early vigour and standing power completing an impressive set of figures

Dry matter content at harvest %	36.2
ME at harvest (mj/kg dry matter)	11.7
Starch content at harvest %	35.4
Cell wall digestibility %	58.9
Early vigour (1-9)	7.1
Standing power (1-9)	7.9

Data from NIAB/BSPB and Limagrain trials

LiRoyal FAO 180



LiRoyal remains a consistently reliable performer in the early to mid-maturity sector and is a truly versatile hybrid being suitable for forage, energy and grain production.

- Maturity is within the FAO 180 range and therefore suitable for growing across the vast majority of the UK maize growing area
- LiRoyal offers the perfect balance of yield, quality and maturity to suit a wide range of applications at a cost-effective price point
- Capable of producing over 18 tonnes of dry matter per hectare and above average starch and ME levels, LiRoyal is the ideal choice for high performing livestock systems or as the early variety in a balanced energy maize portfolio

Dry matter content at harvest %	35.1
ME at harvest (mj/kg dry matter)	11.67
Starch content at harvest %	36.6
Cell wall digestibility %	57.7
Early vigour (1-9)	6.3
Standing power (1-9)	7.9

Data from NIAB/BSPB trials

P7381 FAO 180



P7381 is a high yielding, high feed value variety from Pioneer first introduced in 2024.

- Initial harvest results look very favourable, and the variety has proved to be adaptable to all sectors of the maize market
- Excellent early vigour coupled with impressive late season disease tolerance makes P7381 a very robust and easy to grow hybrid
- Impressive dry matter and starch yields make P7381 an ideal replacement for the likes of Prospect or Resolute in either a forage or energy maize situation
- Being such a versatile hybrid, P7381 will make an ideal addition to any maize growers cropping plan

Dry matter content at harvest %	35.61
ME at harvest (mj/kg dry matter)	12.45
Starch content at harvest %	37.34
Whole plant digestibility %	75.23
Early vigour (1-9)	7.3
Standing power (1-9)	8.0

Data from Pioneer PACTS trials

Foxtrot FAO 180



Introduced in 2023 as a first-choice variety on both the favourable and less favourable descriptive lists Foxtrot offers an outstanding combination of yield and quality making it the perfect variety for use in high yielding livestock systems.

- Class leading figures for starch yield, ME, and cell wall digestibility make Foxtrot the variety of choice for those looking to maximise returns from feeding maize based forage rations
- Foxtrot has been well received by growers and as such will remain a leading hybrid in the early to mid-maturity sector in 2026

Dry matter content at harvest %	35.6
ME at harvest (mj/kg dry matter)	11.68
Starch content at harvest %	36.1
Cell wall digestibility %	57.4
Early vigour (1-9)	7.1
Standing power (1-9)	6.9

Data from NIAB/BSPB trials

Medium maturity

P7034 FAO 180-190



P7034 has firmly established itself as a leading mid maturity hybrid in both forage and AD situations.

- Utilising high yielding “Dent” genetics in an earlier to harvest hybrid enables the variety to be grown in all but the most marginal of sites and it has proved to be an exceptionally consistent hybrid across varying soil types and geographical locations
- P7034 is a very robust plant type with exceptional eyespot and fusarium tolerance which also makes it suitable for grain maize production
- The genetic makeup of P7034 makes it ideal for those growers looking to feed maize soon after ensiling without compromising starch availability

Dry matter content at harvest %	36.26
ME at harvest (mj/kg dry matter)	12.51
Starch content at harvest %	36.46
Whole plant digestibility %	75.58
Early vigour (1-9)	7.0
Standing power (1-9)	7.0

Data from Pioneer PACTS trials

RGT Bluefoxx FAO 180-190



RGT Bluefoxx is from the RAGT stable and features the perfect balance of yield and maturity.

- Suitable for both forage and energy maize applications, Bluefoxx has remained popular with growers due to its reliable yield, good quality profile and competitive price point
- Excellent standing power completes a very robust set of figures and ensures that Bluefoxx will retain its market share in 2026

Dry matter content at harvest %	33.9
ME at harvest (mj/kg dry matter)	11.42
Starch content at harvest %	31.6
Cell wall digestibility %	57.6
Early vigour (1-9)	6.7
Standing power (1-9)	8.0

Data from NIAB/BSPB trials

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LG31205 is a variety from Limagrain suitable for the forage, grain and energy sectors and remains the product of choice for growers looking to combine high yields with a relatively early harvest date.

KWS Marcopolo FAO 190



Marcopolo is a new variety from KWS being suitable for all sectors of the maize market.

- Yield surpasses that of much later maturing hybrids and therefore Marcopolo is a great option for AD operators looking to bring harvest dates forward without sacrificing yield
- Commercial crops drilled in 2025 have been truly exceptional with very large fully developed cobs on robust stems giving well above average yields
- Due to come onto the descriptive list in 2027, Marcopolo already looks set to become a market leader in the FAO 190 sector
- Good lodging resistance ensures the variety is suitable for the grain maize sector whilst high starch and CWD figures ensure that for those looking for a high yielding forage option Marcopolo also fits the bill

Dry matter content at harvest %	33.4
ME at harvest (mj/kg dry matter)	11.41
Starch content at harvest %	33.0
Cell wall digestibility %	57.0
Early vigour (1-9)	7.1
Standing power (1-9)	6.7

Data from NIAB/BSPB trials

LG31205 FAO 190



LG31205 is a variety from Limagrain suitable for the forage, grain and energy sectors and remains the product of choice for growers looking to combine high yields with a relatively early harvest date.

- LG31205 has one of the highest dry matter yields in Limagrain and NIAB trials combined with exceptionally high starch, ME and cell wall digestibility figures
- Maturity is within the FAO 190-200 range making LG31205 suitable for growing on favourable sites with good soils
- Being a single cross hybrid ensures reliable and consistent performance and LG31205 has all the qualities to satisfy the most demanding of growers

Dry matter content at harvest %	36.5
ME at harvest (mj/kg dry matter)	11.5
Starch content at harvest %	33.4
Cell wall digestibility %	56.4
Early vigour (1-9)	7.3
Standing power (1-9)	7.8

Data from NIAB/BSPB trials



KWS Marcopolo

Blackjack FAO 190-200



Blackjack was introduced to the market in 2023 from the same breeder as Palladium.

- Blackjack has a similar dry matter yield to its sister variety but is slightly earlier to mature
- As well as exceptional dry matter yields Blackjack boasts high levels of starch, ME and cell wall digestibility, making it equally suitable for forage or energy applications
- Blackjack has also demonstrated exceptional yield capability when grown under plastic film
- Robust standing power completes an impressive set of characteristics for this high yielding and versatile maize hybrid

Dry matter content at harvest %	30.3
ME at harvest (mj/kg dry matter)	11.1
Starch content at harvest %	29.5
Cell wall digestibility %	56.4
Early vigour (1-9)	7.5
Standing power (1-9)	7.8

Data from NIAB/BSPB trials



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Blackjack was introduced to the market in 2023 from the same breeder as Palladium and has a similar dry matter to its sister variety but is slightly earlier to mature.

Later maturity

Maskaret FAO 200-210



Versatile variety from MAS Seeds suitable for the energy maize market and more favourable forage maize sites.

- Impressive early vigour and reliable cob set make Maskaret a reliable performer while good standing power ensures a safe harvest
- Capable of dry matter yields in excess of 19 tonnes per hectare combined with high starch levels and cell wall digestibility make Maskaret a versatile and competitively priced high yielding option for forage or energy situations

Dry matter content at harvest %	32.4
ME at harvest (mj/kg dry matter)	11.15
Starch content at harvest %	32.0
Cell wall digestibility %	58.3
Early vigour (1-9)	8.0
Standing power (1-9)	8.0

Data from MAS Seeds trials

Palladium FAO 210



Palladium is one of the highest yielding varieties currently available on the NIAB/BSPB descriptive list.

- Palladium is a large impressive hybrid with one of the highest dry matter yields currently available and is suitable for both the forage and energy markets
- With high levels of starch, ME, cell wall digestibility and impressive standing power, Palladium offers an unbeatable combination for those looking to maximise yield and quality
- Cob set is uniform on a very robust stem which gives exceptional standing power and plant stability especially on exposed sites
- Capable of producing over 20 tonnes per hectare dry matter yield on favourable sites makes Palladium the ideal variety for those looking to maximise yield potential

Dry matter content at harvest %	29.6
ME at harvest (mj/kg dry matter)	11.38
Starch content at harvest %	27.5
Cell wall digestibility %	57.9
Early vigour (1-9)	7.0
Standing power (1-9)	7.4

Data from NIAB/BSPB trials

P7948 FAO 210-220



P7948 is another versatile hybrid from Pioneer which is suitable for a number of different end user markets.

- P7948 is a mid to late maturity hybrid offering exceptional yield and quality
- Good standing power is a major benefit for the grain maize market where P7948 has proved itself to have one of the highest grain yields of any variety grown in the UK
- The energy maize market is also ideally suited to P7948 where the combination of consistently reliable maturity and high dry matter yield will appeal to those growing maize on more favourable sites

Dry matter content at harvest %	32.73
ME at harvest (mj/kg dry matter)	12.37
Starch content at harvest %	34.27
Whole plant digestibility %	74.74
Early vigour (1-9)	7.8
Standing power (1-9)	8.0

Data from Pioneer PACTS trials

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P7948 is another versatile hybrid from Pioneer which is suitable for a number of different end user markets and is a mid to late maturity hybrid offering exceptional yield and quality.

P7948

Belanty®

A new fungicide for maize and sweetcorn

Maximise your maize yields

1. Pre-em weed control leads to higher yield
2. Wing®-P and Stomp® Aqua provide strong residual broad-spectrum control
3. Belanty® protects against all the key maize diseases
4. Belanty® can also improve yield and quality, even in the absence of visual disease



Untreated

For best results, apply Belanty® at the first sign of disease infection



Belanty®

Crop label claims	Belanty®
Eyespot	C
Northern corn leaf blight	C

The Belanty® yield boost

- Up to 9% yield boost when disease is not visible*
 - Up to 13% yield boost when disease is present and visible*
1. Apply from stem extension to end of flowering
 2. One application of 1.25l/ha
 3. Excellent broad spectrum efficacy
 - Eyespot
 - NCLB
 - Fusarium

*European maize silage trial data

Value of extra milk and meat from using Belanty®

Small increase in energy content or yield of harvested maize can give BIG returns equivalent to:

- £380 extra milk/ha
- £150 extra meat/ha
- + methane production with quality

Source: Milk and meat value calculated from the yield and quality increase from Belanty® across five UK trials; AHDB: 1 litre milk requires 5.3MJ energy and priced at 40p/l. 1 kg meat requires 100MJ energy and priced at 300p/kg liveweight.

Wing®-P

The strongest pre-emergence weed control

- 2 complementary active ingredients
- Controls grass and broad-leaved weeds
- Strong residual activity
- Greater reliability in dry conditions

MZ28

A foliar applied controlled release nitrogen fertiliser to use on various crops including maize, cereals and oilseed rape

MZ28 contains nitrogen polymers of variable chain lengths. Because these polymers degrade at different rates, this provides a sustained source of nitrogen to the crop, especially beneficial during the rapid growth phase.

This, combined with an optimised formulation, ensures excellent crop safety.

Formulation: Total nitrogen (N) 28% w/w (300g/l) of which 11.5% ureic nitrogen and 16.5% urea formaldehyde.

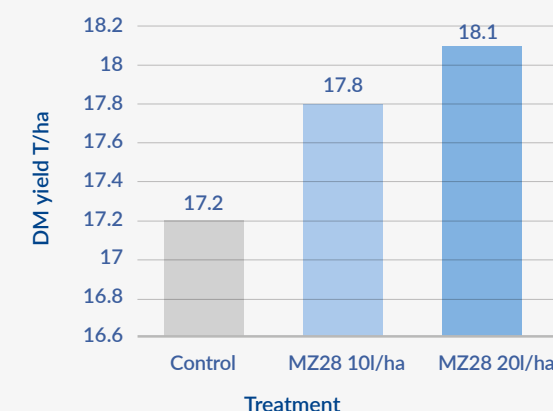
MZ28 offers the following benefits:

- Controlled release for sustained nutrient provision
- Boosts chlorophyll content and dry matter yield
- Excellent crop safety – low salt and biuret content
- Enhanced formulation to minimise risk of volatilisation

Agronomist Quentin Ham's customer Russell Butler in Reading applied MZ28 to a crop of maize:

"The result was a healthy crop with a strong green colour until harvest that showed no signs of drought or stress. Yield and silage analysis has been extremely good which has helped sell stock out of the clamp."

Effect of MZ28 on dry matter yield in forage maize



TAKE CONTROL

Reduce the carbon footprint on your farm

Predicting maize harvest date

Whole crop maize should be harvested when the dry matter (DM) content of the crop is in the range of 30 to 34%. At this stage the plant is still alive with only the lowest leaves showing signs of senescence. The first step is to determine if the crop has reached 20% dry matter.



Once the crop reaches 20% dry matter the DM% of a maize crop typically increases by about 2% per week (rate increases as you get closer to harvest or in hot weather). At around 20% DM the grains will have a yellow colour and taste of sugar.

To assess the DM% of the crop select representative plants from at least 5 points in the field. A representative plant is chosen by stripping back the cobs on 10 adjacent plants and then choosing the average plant from the group.

- Chop up and dry a representative sample (200–500g of cut-up material) in an oven or microwave:
 - Weigh the sample before and after drying
 - Divide the final weight by the initial weight
 - Multiply by 100

Using an oven (the Aga test)

Leave the sample in the oven for 24 hours at 100°C (until weight loss stops) and then reweigh.

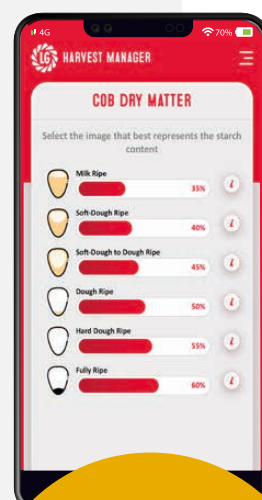
Using a microwave

- The crop may smoulder or ignite if left too long, so stopping and reweighing regularly is required
- Microwave the sample for several minutes and then reweigh to check weight loss.
- Stop and reweigh every five to ten minutes.
- As the crop gets drier, 30-second intervals are more appropriate.
- When weight remains unchanged for two consecutive measurements, the crop can be considered dry.

(ensure a cup of water is put in the microwave alongside the sample to prevent combustion)

'Rough and ready' guide

- The grains are generally pale yellow, and they have no taste apart from water then they have not started laying down sugar and any further tests need to be delayed for another week.
- If the grains have a yellow colour to them and taste of sugar, then they are normally at least 20% and testing should be commenced to determine their dry matter.
- If the grains are yellow- orange and have lost their sweet taste and now are floury and taste of starch (a sort of sweet chestnut taste), but still have some juice water in them, it is likely that they will be around 28%.
- If the grains are floury to taste and have no water in them when bitten, then they are likely to be 32% and ready to harvest.
- Some modern varieties may 'stay green' when the cob appears ready – Snap stem between 2nd and 3rd nodes – if water pours out harvest may need to be delayed slightly.



The Limagrains
LG Maize
Manager App
also has a useful
harvest manager tool



The milk line test

The 'milk line test' can also be used as a guide out in the field. When the line separating the liquid and solid parts of the grain meet halfway down, the crop is ready to harvest.

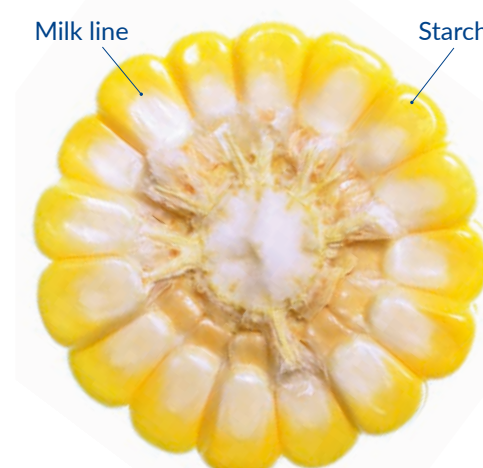
- Break several representative ears in half.
- Visually look at milk line on side of kernel facing the butt end of the ear.
- Sometimes visual determination can be misleading so a more reliable method is to "bite" or use your "fingernail" to see how far down the kernel the milk line is located



Harvest maturity indicator

	Milky	Milky doughy	Doughy milky	Doughy	Hard dough, top is hard and glassy	Hard and glassy
Grain description						
Milk line	None	Beginning to show from top	1/4 way down grain	1/3 way down grain	None	At bottom
Husk	Green	Green	Green	Yellowing	Yellowing	Desiccated
Whole plant DM %	< 25	25-28	28-30	30-32	32-35	35 >
Status	Not ready	Not ready	Not ready	Ready	Ready	Too late

- Harvesting too early will **reduce** starch yields
- We recommend harvesting healthy plants when milk line is 1/2 to 3/4 (or more) **down** the kernel depending upon how healthy the crop is
- It is best to 'bite' the kernel with your teeth to determine milk line rather than using **visual** appraisal
- When the maize plant is approaching full maturity it is typical for silage to dry down 0.5 - 1.0 percentage points of moisture per day depending on weather conditions. It is also typical for **healthy** corn plants to deposit 0.5-1.0 percentage points of starch in the corn silage every day up to the time the kernel reaches **physiological** maturity (blacklayer).
- It is the starch deposition **rather than the drying of stalks/leaves** which reduces moisture in healthy, maturing corn plants.



Difference in kernel harvest maturity between 1/3 and 2/3 milk line can be >6% units of starch in the resulting silage

Maize undersowing and post harvest options

Key benefits

- Reduce nitrate leaching
- Potential for better digestate utilisation
- Improves soil structure
- Helps to reduce soil erosion
- Increase soil organic matter levels
- Potential for winter livestock grazing
- Options available for the following SFI schemes: SAM2, CSAM2 and SOH4

The environmental impact of maize growing in the UK is a topic that continues to cause debate amongst growers, environmentalists and the general public.

However, taking a more holistic approach to maize growing can drastically reduce the impact of the crop. Cover cropping maize ground reduces soil erosion, protects the soil profile and reduces nutrient leaching and one of the most reliable ways to establish a cover crop is by undersowing the growing maize crop.

There are now a number of options for maize growers within the Sustainable Farming Incentive including SAM2 multi-species winter cover crop, CSAM2 multi-species winter cover crop for growers entered into the expanded 2024 offer and SOH4 winter cover crops for maize, also within the expanded offer. All of these options can be undersown with the growing crop.

Agrovista's range of maize undersowing and post-harvest mixtures offer flexibility around sowing, are fully compliant for the relevant SFI actions when grown in a way that meets the aims of the action and come backed by many years of research and experience.

TechniSward Soilmax

(SAM2, SOH4)

Fotjan	<i>Tall fescue plus™ (festulolium)</i>	40%
Tower	<i>Tall fescue</i>	50%
Donata	<i>Soft leaved cocksfoot</i>	10%

- Specifically designed to being drilled at the same time as the maize crop (inter-row)
- The slow growing tall fescue and tall fescue PLUS™ helps to suppress weed emergence without competing with the maize
- As the grasses mature the root mass develops, helping to retain any residual nutrients which are left in the soil post-harvest
- The deep rooting grass species also help to improve soil structure
- Sow at 3 to 5kg/acre (7.5–12.5kg/ha)

TechniSward Soilmax Plus

(SAM2, CSAM2, SOH4)

Fotjan	<i>Tall fescue plus™ (festulolium)</i>	35%
Tower	<i>Tall fescue</i>	62%
Rivendel	<i>Small white clover</i>	3%

TechniSward Enviromax

(SAM2, SOH4)

Twymax	<i>Tetraploid late perennial ryegrass</i>	70%
Fotjan	<i>Tall fescue plus™ (festulolium)</i>	20%
Donata	<i>Soft leaved cocksfoot</i>	10%

- Suitable for sowing at the 4-6 leaf stage
- This mixture establishes quickly but then slows as the maize canopy closes above it
- Once maize is harvested the sward will quickly establish effective ground cover to protect the soil over the winter months and then provide a crop of silage the following spring
- Sow at 3 to 5kg/acre (7.5–12.5kg/ha)

TechniSward Enviromax Plus

(SAM2, CSAM2, SOH4)

Twymax	<i>Tetraploid late perennial ryegrass</i>	60%
Donata	<i>Soft leaved cocksfoot</i>	10%
Common vetch		30%

Fastmax

(SAM2, SOH4)

Fox	<i>Diploid Italian ryegrass</i>	60%
Lofa	<i>Festulolium</i>	30%
Donata	<i>Soft leaved cocksfoot</i>	10%

- Designed to be sown at the 4 to 6 leaf stage
- Rapid early establishment slows as the maize canopy closes and then grows quickly post-harvest to provide good winter cover
- Capable of providing an early cut of silage the following spring
- Sow at 7.5–12.5kg/ha

After Maize Cover Crop

(SAM2, CSAM2, SOH4)

Westerwolds ryegrass	56%
Winter vetch	44%

- A fast-establishing winter cover crop for sowing after maize is harvested
- Provides quality late winter grazing or an early cut of high protein silage the following spring
- Care should be take to avoid soil contamination if a silage cut is planned for the following spring. Topping the maize stalks is also advised if a silage cut is intended.
- Sow at 30-37kg/ha before mid-October



Selecting a silage inoculant



Use this to help you to select the correct silage inoculant for your farm.

Or for further guidance, contact your local Agrovista agronomist.

MAIZE ENSILING

Forage maize 30-35% DM

Crimped maize grain

11B91

- Specifically designed for preserving crimped maize grain
- Improved aerobic stability and reduced fermentation losses

Improved animal performance

For high performing dairy and beef enterprises where farmers are seeking to optimise production from forage

11C33 RR

- Improved aerobic stability
- Improved animal performance through more efficient fermentation

Extreme heating challenge

For use where forage maize is prone to heating, such as slow feed-out, lack of compaction, long chop length, summer feed-out and higher DM contents

11A44

- Improved aerobic stability
- Reduction in yeasts and moulds

Anaerobic digestion

For treating forage maize for use in anaerobic digesters

11CH4

- Faster and more efficient fibre digestibility
- 8% increase in methane yield
- Improved aerobic stability

11CFT

- Improved aerobic stability
- Enzymes help lift lignin from cell walls increasing digestibility
- Increase in milk yields of up to 40 litres per tonne





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