agrovista
seeds



Maize

key varieties

2027 *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 2027 maize brochure

For many growers 2026 has been another year where a lack of rainfall and record high temperatures have once again made growing maize a difficult challenge.

Maize drilled on more bodied land did cope with conditions better than maize drilled on lighter soils but ultimately the lack of rainfall led to substantial yield loss for many growers. However, maize drilled North of a line drawn from the Humber to the Mersey estuary did on the whole seem to perform better than crops drilled south of that line.

Soil type and drilling dates were big factors in the crop's ability to access moisture and nutrients and the mixed farming regions generally benefitted from higher residual nutrient levels and high levels of soil organic matter due to manure applications.

As in 2025 harvest was pretty much over by mid-September in many areas 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 continued to create interest in undersowing the maize crop and we can offer solutions for SAM2, CSAM2 and SOH4 schemes which are both profitable and beneficial to the environment. The shambles of SFI26 is well documented and we wait to see what SFI27 will offer but hopefully some financial incentive for undersowing the maize crop will be retained.

Seed treatment options include the bird repellent Korit for 2027 but we anticipate this product being withdrawn from the market at some point in 2028. 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



Contents

Expert advice for every stage of maize production	4
Maize nutrition	6
Ultra-early maturity varieties	9
Early maturity varieties	11
Medium maturity varieties	13
Later maturity varieties	18
Predicting maize harvest date	22
Maize undersowing and post-harvest options	24
Selecting a silage inoculant	26

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:

Nutrient planning

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

Seed selection

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









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 soil's 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.

Instinct®
Optinyte™ Technology
NITROGEN STABILIZER

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.

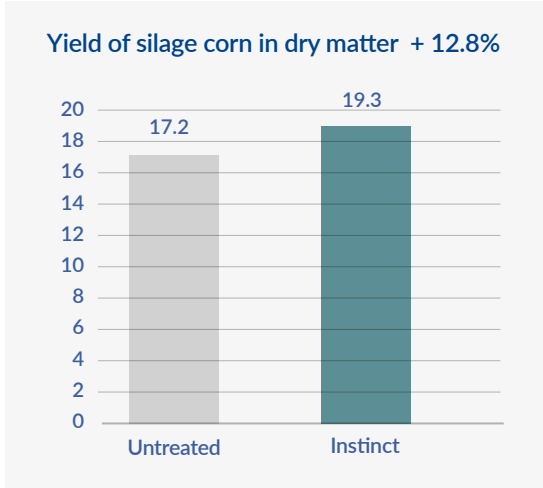
These trials were conducted using a variety of fertiliser types – urea, UAN, AN, slurry and digestate.

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 as 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



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 nitrapyrin (Optinyte™).

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."



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.

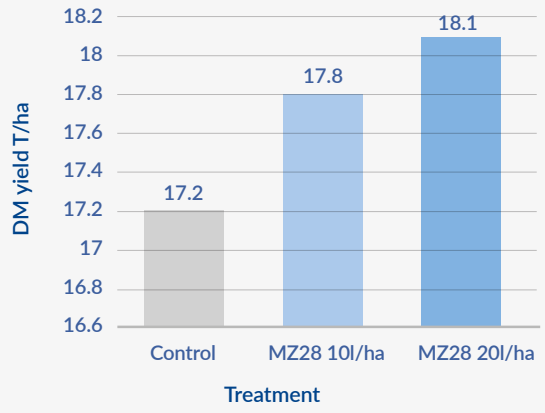
This, combined with an optimised formulation, ensures excellent crop safety.

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

Effect of MZ28 on dry matter yield in forage maize



TAKE CONTROL

Reduce the carbon footprint on your farm



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 Greenlando FAO 140-150



KWS Greenlando is currently undergoing NIAB/BSPB descriptive list trials.

- Greenlando is at least as early as KWS Cito but with a potential 10% uplift in dry matter yield and starch production
- Plant stature is taller than Cito and the cob remains fully enclosed within the wrapper leaves right up to harvest, minimising any potential damage
- Quality figures look outstanding in trials to date but seed will be limited in 2027
- Ideal variety to place a few bags alongside Cito to compare the varieties in this its first year of commercial sales

Dry matter content at harvest %	46.70
ME at harvest (mj/kg dry matter)	12.27
Starch content at harvest %	45.40
Cell wall digestibility %	58.20
Early vigour (1-9)	7.70
Standing power (1-9)	7.70

Data from NIAB/BSPB trials

KWS Cito FAO 150



KWS Cito remains the number 1 selling ultra-early variety in the UK and has retained that position for a number of years.

- 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 that's early to harvest minimising soil damage and road contamination

Dry matter content at harvest %	40.90
ME at harvest (mj/kg dry matter)	12.02
Starch content at harvest %	41.50
Cell wall digestibility %	58.20
Early vigour (1-9)	6.80
Standing power (1-9)	7.80

Data from NIAB/BSPB trials

KWS Portobello FAO 160-170

KWS Portobello is an 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 %	39.00
ME at harvest (mj/kg dry matter)	11.73
Starch content at harvest %	38.50
Cell wall digestibility %	57.10
Early vigour (1-9)	7.40
Standing power (1-9)	8.00

Data from NIAB/BSPB trials

RGT Duxxford FAO 160-170

New entry from RAGT on the short to mid-season NIAB/BSPB descriptive list.

- RGT Duxxford has the ideal combination of earliness, yield and quality making it equally suitable for forage or as the early option in a balanced energy maize portfolio
- RGT Duxxford is a large stature plant for such an early variety with well filled cobs giving good levels of starch production
- Excellent standing power ensures Duxxford will still be ready to forage even in a more challenging harvest year.
- Dual-purpose early to mature variety which will be sure to appeal to a wide cross section of growers

Dry matter content at harvest %	38.40
ME at harvest (mj/kg dry matter)	11.62
Starch content at harvest %	36.30
Cell wall digestibility %	57.20
Early vigour (1-9)	6.80
Standing power (1-9)	7.90

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)	7.50
Standing power (1-9)	7.00

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 %	36.20
ME at harvest (mj/kg dry matter)	11.70
Starch content at harvest %	35.40
Cell wall digestibility %	58.90
Early vigour (1-9)	7.10
Standing power (1-9)	7.90

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 %	35.10
ME at harvest (mj/kg dry matter)	11.67
Starch content at harvest %	36.60
Cell wall digestibility %	57.70
Early vigour (1-9)	6.30
Standing power (1-9)	7.90

Data from NIAB/BSPB trials

P7381 FAO 180

P7381 is a high-yielding, high feed value variety from Pioneer which 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 complete a solid all round package suitable for either forage or energy maize situations
- Being such a versatile hybrid, P7381 will make an ideal addition to any maize grower's 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)	7.30
Standing power (1-9)	8.00

Data from Pioneer PACTS trials

Foxtrot FAO 180

Foxtrot remains a first choice variety on the short to mid-season NIAB/BSPB descriptive list for 2027. 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 2027

Dry matter content at harvest %	36.80
ME at harvest (mj/kg dry matter)	11.72
Starch content at harvest %	35.80
Cell wall digestibility %	57.50
Early vigour (1-9)	7.20
Standing power (1-9)	7.50

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)	7.00
Standing power (1-9)	7.00

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 2027

Dry matter content at harvest %	32.60
ME at harvest (mj/kg dry matter)	11.38
Starch content at harvest %	32.20
Cell wall digestibility %	57.30
Early vigour (1-9)	6.80
Standing power (1-9)	8.20

Data from NIAB/BSPB trials



Fulcana FAO 180-190

New variety from Saaten Union currently undergoing descriptive list trials.

- Very impressive plant being tall but with excellent standing power and producing large well filled cobs
- Suitable for both the livestock and energy sectors with high levels of starch, ME and cell wall digestibility
- Perfect as the early variety in a balanced AD maize portfolio or for those wanting to maximise yield in the livestock sector
- Fairly limited seed supply for 2027

Dry matter content at harvest %	35.90
ME at harvest (mj/kg dry matter)	11.69
Starch content at harvest %	36.20
Cell wall digestibility %	56.60
Early vigour (1-9)	7.30
Standing power (1-9)	7.90

Data from NIAB/BSPB trials

DKC2644 FAO 190

New variety from Bayer which has entered the NIAB/BSPB mid to long-season descriptive list as a first choice variety.

- Very impressive dry matter yield makes DKC2644 one of the highest yielding varieties on the list
- Good standing power coupled with high levels of starch production makes this an ideal variety for the AD sector
- Class-leading dry matter yield with the benefit of being considerably earlier to harvest than many of its competitors ensures that DKC2644 will become a firm favourite with maize growers in years to come

Dry matter content at harvest %	34.00
ME at harvest (mj/kg dry matter)	11.39
Starch content at harvest %	32.20
Cell wall digestibility %	56.80
Early vigour (1-9)	6.40
Standing power (1-9)	7.60

Data from NIAB/BSPB trials



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 %	34.90
ME at harvest (mj/kg dry matter)	11.52
Starch content at harvest %	34.60
Cell wall digestibility %	57.20
Early vigour (1-9)	6.80
Standing power (1-9)	6.90

Data from NIAB/BSPB trials

LG31205 FAO 190

LG31205 is a Limagrain variety 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 %	33.70
ME at harvest (mj/kg dry matter)	11.51
Starch content at harvest %	33.20
Cell wall digestibility %	56.90
Early vigour (1-9)	6.70
Standing power (1-9)	7.60

Data from NIAB/BSPB trials



Blackjack FAO 190-200

Blackjack has established itself as a very high-yielding robust variety on farm over the past three seasons. Produced by 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
- Robust standing power completes an impressive set of characteristics for this high-yielding and versatile maize hybrid
- Blackjack has also performed exceptionally well over the past couple of seasons where drought conditions have seriously impacted some competitor hybrids
- Blackjack has also demonstrated exceptional yield capability when grown under plastic film

Dry matter content at harvest %	30.30
ME at harvest (mj/kg dry matter)	11.10
Starch content at harvest %	29.50
Cell wall digestibility %	56.40
Early vigour (1-9)	7.50
Standing power (1-9)	7.80

Data from NIAB/BSPB trials





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

Aerobik (EY3438) FAO 210

Aerobik from the breeder DSV is currently undergoing descriptive list trials.

- Big yielding hybrid suitable for the energy maize market
- As well as formidable dry matter yields Aerobik produces large amounts of starch from big uniform cobs
- Coped well with drought conditions in 2026 with minimal premature senescence while still producing full cob set
- Certainly one to watch in 2027 although seed will be very limited this season

Dry matter content at harvest %	32.20
ME at harvest (mj/kg dry matter)	12.03
Starch content at harvest %	32.10
Cell wall digestibility %	57.90
Early vigour (1-9)	7.20
Standing power (1-9)	7.90

Data from NIAB/BSPB and breeder's own 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
- Palladium has also performed exceptionally well in dry or drought conditions over the past couple of seasons which given the unpredictability of our current weather patterns is a very useful trait

Dry matter content at harvest %	30.40
ME at harvest (mj/kg dry matter)	11.43
Starch content at harvest %	28.30
Cell wall digestibility %	58.30
Early vigour (1-9)	7.20
Standing power (1-9)	7.40

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



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.

BELANTY

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**

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



Untreated



Belanty®

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

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.

BASF
We create chemistry

Use plant protection products safely. Always read the label and product information before use. For further product information including warning phrases and symbols refer to www.agricentre.basf.co.uk. For further information, please do not hesitate to contact your local BASF Agronomy Manager or the BASF Technical Services Hotline: 0845 602 2553. Belanty® contains mefentrifluconazole (Revysol®). Belanty®, Wing®-P and Stomp® Aqua are registered Trademarks of BASF. All other brand names used on this publication are Trademarks of other manufacturers in which proprietary rights may exist. © BASF 2025. All rights reserved.



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.

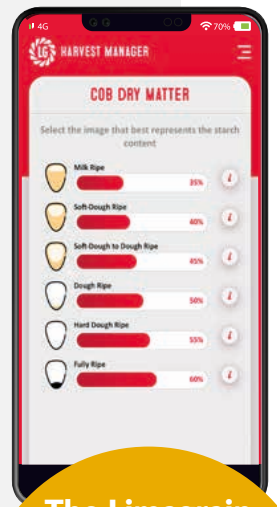
Using a microwave

- 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

- If 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 Limagrain LG Maize Manager App also has a useful harvest manager tool

The milk line test

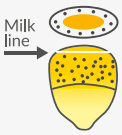
The 'milk line test' can also be used as a guide out in the field. When the line separating the liquid and solid parts of the grain meets halfway down, the crop is ready to harvest.

- Break several representative ears in half.
- Visually look at the milk line on the 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

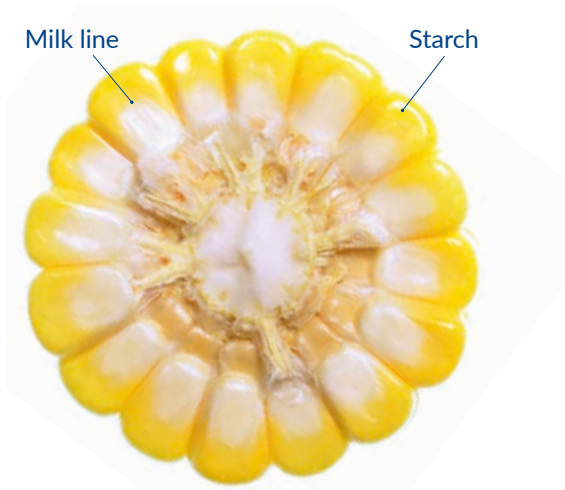




Harvest maturity indicator

	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 and CSAM2 multispecies winter cover crops and SOH4 winter cover crops for maize. All of these options can be undersown with the growing crop.

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

TechniSward Soilmax
(SAM2, SOH4)

Tall fescue festulolium	40%
Tall fescue	50%
Soft leaved cocksfoot	10%

TechniSward Soilmax Plus
(SAM2, CSAM2, SOH4)

Tall fescue festulolium	35%
Tall fescue	62%
Small leaved white clover	3%

- Specifically designed to being drilled at the same time as the maize crop (inter-row)
- The slow growing tall fescue and tall fescue PLUS™ help 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 Enviromax
(SAM2, SOH4)

Tall fescue festulolium	20%
Tetraploid late perennial ryegrass	70%
Soft leaved cocksfoot	10%

TechniSward Enviromax Plus
(SAM2, CSAM2, SOH4)

Tetraploid late perennial ryegrass	75%
Soft leaved cocksfoot	15%
Common vetch	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)

Fastmax
(SAM2, SOH4)

Diploid Italian ryegrass	60%
Festulolium	30%
Soft leaved cocksfoot	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 taken 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

Varieties may change subject to availability



Selecting a silage inoculant

CORTEVA™ agriscience

PIONEER® MADE TO GROW™

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

Or for further guidance, contact your local Agrovista agronomist.



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









Speak to your local Agrovista agronomist about our market-leading deferred payment scheme for maize seed

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Use plant protection products safely. Always read the label and product information before use.

11/26