



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

DATE: 13/09/2011

TIME: 10:15:07

TO: Maize dry matters 2011

FAX:

FROM: Neil Groom

RE: Week 1

CC:

Number of pages including cover sheet: 2

Message

Maize Crops show real potential for harvest

Site	Drill date	Ht above sea level (m)	Crop dry matter 7 September	Increase from last week
Petworth, Sussex	27 th April	50	26.5	
Harleston, Norfolk	20 th April	30	25.5	
Crediton, Devon	19 th April	118	22.2	
Ticknall, Derbyshire	15 th April	67	24.5	
Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire*	2 nd May	32	18.6	
Leyburn, N. Yorks *	23 rd April	140	22.1	
SAC, Dumfries, Scotland*	22 nd April	45		

* Variety Es Picker, all other sites are Es Ballade

Forage maize crops have bulked up significantly in the last month reports Neil Groom, Technical Director for Grainseed Ltd.

"Its difficult to generalise because of the extremes in the weather this season, we have drought still in the west midlands across to welsh borders whilst in Northern England and Scotland there has been continual rain, wind and cool temperatures".

To get the maximum benefit from feeding maize in the ration the dry matter needs to be 30% so that the sugars in the leaf have been converted to starch in the grain. Patience to achieve this will be necessary for many this season.

"In my 15 years of growing maize this is the poorest summer for heat and sunshine, but in most areas starch is starting to form in the grain, we just need good weather to allow a fast finish. Modern varieties will finish rapidly increasing dry matter by up to 5% per week - so keep an eye on your crops".

I always advise growers to examine 10 plants in a row well away from the headland. Peel back the con leaf, snap the cob in half and look at grain maturity. We want grain to be ripe with just the smallest drop of liquid coming out of the base of the grain as this will ensure that maximum starch content that drives milk production and growth is achieved.