



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: 09:31:07

TO: Maize dry matters 2011

FAX:

FROM: Neil Groom

RE: Week 6

CC:

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Message



Northern maize reaches maturity

Site	Drill date	Ht above sea level (m)	Crop dry matter 12 October	Increase from last week
Petworth, Sussex	27 th April	50	Harvested	
Harleston, Norfolk	20 th April	30	Harvested	
Crediton, Devon	19 th April	118	Harvested	
Ticknall, Derbyshire	15 th April	67	Harvested	
Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire*	2 nd May	32	25.7	+2.9
Leyburn, N. Yorks *	23 rd April	140	30.4	+5.0
SAC, Dumfries, Scotland*	22 nd April	45	23.5	+2.0

* Variety Es Picker, all other sites are Es Ballade

Forage maize in Northern areas and those with less heat units are now reaching full maturity reports Neil Groom Technical Manager for Grainseed Ltd. "I have noticed a real difference in grain maturity in the last week and crops want to finish and maximise starch in the grain."

Brian Metcalfe at Leyburn in North Yorkshire agrees "We thought dry matters would have been higher last week since the cob is nearly fully mature, but rain just before sampling probably dropped the dry matter recorded last week. Once we get a weather window we will harvest our own crops and many of our customers are ready too – it's going to be busy up here for the next few weeks as we chop all the maize".

Maize eyespot is widespread this year notes Mr Groom. "Eyespot has moved rapidly across the country in favourable conditions and many crops have lesions that have a 1mm dead centre surrounded by a yellow halo when the leaf is held up to the light. In severe cases this has caused all the leaf to prematurely senesce and limited starch lay down in the grain."

Prevention of re-infection for next year crop is important with so much inoculum around and action starts now. "If possible rotate fields around the farm, plough all infected fields now and write in next year's diary to spray a fungicide in July to protect the green leaf".

"The Maize Growers Association have done some good work on looking at different fungicides and assessing the level of physical damage caused by the sprayer and it's clear that it's well worth doing when the risk is high of getting eyespot in the crop".

As autumn progresses the risk of frost damage increases. It's the degree of frosting that matters on crops comments Mr Groom "If its just the top 2 or 3 leaves then don't worry about it, but when the leaves below the cob are frosted then get the crop chopped and in the clamp. The problem with frosted crops is that yeasts and moulds grow on the dead leaves and these can cause mycotoxins to be present in the silage at feeding".