



# Grainseed Ltd.



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## F A X M E S S A G E

**DATE:** 19/09/2011

**TIME:** 11:42:15

**TO:** Maize dry matters 2011

**FAX:**

**FROM:** Neil Groom

**RE:** Week 2

**CC:**

Number of pages including cover sheet: 2

### Message



### Maize growers in South urged to check crops now

Site	Drill date	Ht above sea level (m)	Crop dry matter 14 September	Increase from last week
Petworth, Sussex	27 <sup>th</sup> April	50	31.4	+ 4.9
Harleston, Norfolk	20 <sup>th</sup> April	30	29.7	+ 4.2
Crediton, Devon	19 <sup>th</sup> April	118	23.8	+ 1.6
Ticknall, Derbyshire	15 <sup>th</sup> April	67	27.1	+ 2.6
Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire*	2 <sup>nd</sup> May	32	20.3	+ 1.7
Leyburn, N. Yorks *	23 <sup>rd</sup> April	140	24.0	+ 1.9
SAC, Dumfries, Scotland*	22 <sup>nd</sup> April	45	20.6	

\* Variety Es Picker, all other sites are Es Ballade

Maize growers who drilled early and are in areas of the country with high level of heat units are urged to check their crops every 3 days to gauge harvest date correctly recommends Neil Groom, Technical Director for Grainseed Ltd.

“When you look at the results this week for the sites in Sussex and Suffolk you can see an increase in dry matter of over 4% as the crop matures. This has been accomplished during a period of cloud and showers, although the high winds have accelerated crop dry down. We do expect this fast dry down with modern varieties, especially in September, and this is why we advise looking at crops every 3 days and keeping in contact with your contractor to ensure he is available when your crops are ready to chop”.

“Having been on many farms in the South West, Midlands and East Anglia in the last week we are predicting many crops will be fit to harvest next week – so if you haven’t looked yet then get a good look around the farm this weekend.”

I always advise growers to examine 10 plants in a row well away from the headland. Peel back the cob 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.

Any crops cleared in September should have a catch crop sown afterwards to prevent soil erosion and to ensure any free nutrients are utilised rather than leached. Many arable farmers will sow winter wheat after maize. Just ensure trash is ploughed in well to prevent fusarium in the wheat next harvest recommends Mr Groom.

Livestock farms can benefit from sowing Westerwolds or Italian Ryegrass for an early bite next March, but ensure you graze rather than cut if you intend to drill maize again in the field. Too many maize crops are compromised by leaving grass to bulk up in May and the silage crop utilises all the winter rainfall so that the maize doesn’t germinate evenly and maize yields are reduced compared to April sown maize crops.