ADM Agriculture Ltd

Maize Seed Guide

2026

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Introduction

Maize is a reliable, high performing crop with an important role in farming systems. This guide provides an overview of our maize seed range, alongside key information on varietal selection, drilling, crop nutrition, and the benefits of growing maize.

It is designed to support confident decision making by highlighting the strengths of different varieties and outlining the factors that contribute to successful crop establishment and performance.

By working closely with several leading UK maize breeders, we offer access to some of the best maize varieties on the market to meet the needs of your business.

Drilling

The FAO number of a variety is its relative index of maturity. A variety with a lower FAO number will require less heat units to reach harvest time unlike a variety with a higher FAO number which will need more heat units to reach harvest time.

Location can greatly differ how long varieties take to reach harvest; the same variety drilled in the North and the South will not mature at the same time due to the heat unit variation.

When is the best time to drill? This depends on soil temperature and conditions, plus the seedbed moisture. Usually, it is suggested to drill when soils are 8 degrees and rising for at least 3-4 days. If you drill too early there is a risk of germination issues and drilling too late can increase the risk of lodging plus delaying harvest.

Varietal Selection

Choosing the right variety for you and your land is important, with the first consideration being what the Maize is being grown for i.e. grain, forage or biogas, where in the UK you are based - is this a warmer location and is the land heavy or light. It is also worth noting when you want to be harvesting the crop - a later maturing variety on heavy areas may increase your risk of not being able to work the land when it reaches its optimum harvest potential.

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Maize Varieties

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RAGT

Varieties	FAO	End Use	Dry Matter Yield	Starch Content %
RGT Duxbury	150	Forage	16.2	37.6
RGT Buxxton	170	Forage	17.2	35.8
RGT Pixxon	180	Forage	17.9	33.2
RGT Axxional	210	Biogas	18.7	27.3

Data from 5 YEAR DL ANALYSIS – DL and year 2 varieties – ALL SITES

Grainseed

Varieties	FAO	End Use	Dry Matter Yield t/ha	Starch Content %
Faith	170	Forage/Biogas	18.8	35.5
ES Mydral	180	Forage/Biogas	19.20	31.1
Bonnie	185	Forage	18.40	35.8
ES Constance	190	Forage/Grain	18.60	33.5
Emeleen	200	Forage/Biogas	19.10	30.5
Wesley	210	Forage/Grain/Biogas	19.50	30.4
ES Legolas	210	Forage/Biogas	18.60	29.3
Crosbey	215	Forage/Grain	18.90	32.8
Micheleen	220	Forage/Grain	20.10	30.3
ES Metronom	225	Biogas	18.80	28.6
Jakleen	225	Biogas	19.90	29.4

Data from BSPB descriptive list

KWS

Varieties	FAO	End Use	Dry Matter Yield t/ha	Starch Content %
Temprano	150	Forage/Biogas	16.8	39.10
Augustus	160	Forage	16.5 (2023 data)	38
Severus	170	Forage/Biogas/Grain	17.8 (2020 data)	35
Mojo	170	Forage/Biogas	18.11	38.20
Autens	170	Forage/Biogas/Grain	18.1	34.30
Anastasio	180/190	Forage/Biogas/Grain	18.9	33.20
Papageno	190	Forage/Biogas/Grain	19	33
Agrolino	200	Forage/Biogas	19	34.20
Pluvio	210	Forage/Biogas	19.9	31.10
Keops	210/220	Forage/Biogas	-	-

Data from BSPB Descriptive List

DSV

Varieties	FAO	End Use	Dry Matter Yield	Starch Content %
Ambient	120	Forage/Biogas/Grain	15.9	37.5
Joy	150	Forage/Biogas	16.8	37.1
Liroyal	190	Forage/Biogas	18.9	34
Farmunox	210	Forage/Biogas	19.2	31
Petroschka	230	Forage/Biogas	20.1	32
Shiny	220	Forage/Biogas	18.9	29.3

Data from breeder

Elsoms

Varieties	FAO	End Use	Dry Matter Yield	Starch Content	Data Origin
Mojito	190-200	Forage/Biogas	16.6 vs RGT Agiraxx 14.1	-	From private trials 2025
Hagrid	190-200	Forage/Biogas	16.2 vs RGT Agiraxx	-	From private trials 2025
Indem 1631	200	Forage/Biogas	15.8 vs RGT Agiraxx	-	From private trials 2025
Neutrino	230	Forage/Biogas	19.6 vs 19.7 METRONOM	26.3	From 2022 BSPB Forage Maize Description List

Data from private trials and BSPB Descriptive List 2022

Advantages of Growing Maize

Maize offers a range of benefits to those growing it. It's high yield potential and the versatility to grow in a range of different climates, due to range of varieties available on the market. Growing maize can offer cost saving for the grower, in comparison to other crops, with the ability to use minimal tillage, alongside environmental benefits like the reduction for spray usage.

Feed

Maize offers high levels of starch, energy and other intake characteristics that allow for a higher dry matter yield potential for ruminant animals. Varieties can also be selected on their cell wall digestibility, ME yield and starch yield, which are also very useful metrics when planning ruminant diets. Furthermore, maize offers a sustainable food source within the livestock and biogas sectors, requiring low inputs and minimal tillage when drilling. It is also worth considering using inoculation products when ensiling maize for feed to reduce wastage. Other things to consider when ensiling the maize include filling the clamp quickly, ensuring it is sealed thoroughly to allow the anaerobic process to happen and run off tanks are in place to prevent run off into watercourses.

Biogas (AD)

The growing of maize for AD plants has grown in popularity, due to renewable heat incentive schemes which have grown largely in the UK. As AD plants require high output feed stock, maize fits well into this category, with high dry matter yield potential and low cost per tonne to grow, compared with alternative feed stock options. Generally, this means that farmers without the infrastructure of a silage clamp etc, still have the ability to grow maize without additional investment, with clamps being located at the AD site. This is a great way to add a different crop into the rotation, without needing additional storage capacity on farm.

Grain

Grain maize is typically harvested three to five weeks after forage maize, allowing the grain to dry out before being harvested through a maize combine header as apposed to a forager. When picking grain maize, it is therefore essential to look at early maturing varieties as well as grain yield and standing ability, due to longer periods in the field. The corn will then go through a milling or crimping process, before being used as feed. Grain maize offers higher metabolisable energy, crude protein dry matter and starch for ruminant animals.

Crop Nutrition

Physiostart | Microgranular Starter Fertiliser
Optimizing Maize Establishment and Maximising Yield

Top up your maize nutrition

- Maize requires high phosphorus availability at emergence to drive root growth and early vigour.
- Standard fertiliser applications often result in nutrient lock-up, limiting plant uptake.
- Physiostart provides highly available phosphorus, nitrogen, sulphur, and zinc directly to the seed, ensuring rapid absorption at the most critical stage.
- PhysioPro biostimulant technology improves root formation, maximising nutrient efficiency and early plant development.

What is Physiostart?

Physiostart is a microgranular starter fertiliser, delivering essential nutrients in a highly available form at sowing. Its precision application at seed placement ensures maize plants receive the right nutrition at the right time, optimising establishment and reducing stress during early growth stages.

Physiostart contains:

- 8% Nitrogen (N) – Ammoniacal for controlled early availability
- 28% Phosphorus (P2O5) – Rapidly soluble for strong root growth
- 23% Sulphur (SO3) – Enhances nitrogen use efficiency
- 2% Zinc (Zn) – Key for early enzymatic activity and phosphorus uptake

Formulated with:

- PhysioPro Biostimulant Technology – Enhances root and root hair growth, promoting better calcium absorption and resilience.

Why Apply Physiostart?

Physiostart provides maize with an efficient nutrient delivery system, ensuring strong establishment and higher yields.

Key Benefits include:

- Rapid Emergence – Improved phosphorus availability accelerates germination and even emergence.
- Stronger Root Development – Zinc and sulphur boost root mass and nutrient absorption.
- Increased Early Vigor – PhysioPro biostimulant enhances root hair growth for better calcium uptake.
- Reduced Abiotic Stress – Minimises risk from cold soils, drought, and compaction.
- Higher Yield Potential – Proven trials show increased maize silage and grain yield.
- Precision Placement – Microgranular application ensures nutrient efficiency with no waste.

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For further information please contact your Farm Trader or our friendly team.

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