

Choosing the right forage maize for your system



With the wide choice of modern forage maize varieties available, it is now possible to select the ideal maturity class for your situation and grow the crop as part of an integrated year-round forage production system.

Step 1: Allocate points according to your location.

Berks	10	Essex	12	Leics	8	Staffs	2
Bucks	2	Glos	10	N Lincs	6	Suffolk	12
Cambs	12	Glam	4	S Lincs	8	Surrey	12
Cheshire	2	Gwent	8	Norfolk	10	Sussex	12
Cornwall	0	Hants	12	Northants	8	Warks	8
Cumbria	0	Hereford	4	Notts	4	Wilts	10
Devon	4	Herts	12	Oxon	8	Worcs	8
Derby	2	Kent	12	Shrops	2	N Yorks	0
Dorset	8	Lancs	0	Somerset	8	S Yorks	4

Step 2: Allocate points according to your system.

Target DM %	26	28	30	32	
Points	6	4	2	0	
Harvest date	15-22 Sept	23-30 Sept	1-7 Oct	8-15 Oct	
Points	0	2	4	6	
Sowing date	15-22 April	23-30 April	1-7 May	7-15 May	
Points	3	2	1	0	
Altitude (m)	0-60	60-150	150+		
Points	4	2	0		
Location points + total system points →					

Step 3: Match maturity class to your requirements.

Points	13 and less	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21 +
Maturity Class	11 / 10	9	8	7	6	6	5	4	3

Source: *The Agronomists' Handbook, NIAB, 2007-08*

Consult British Seed Houses for further advice on site and variety selection.

VARIETIES TO SUIT ALL SYSTEMS

Ultra Early varieties

Variety	DM Yield (% control)	DM %	Yield (tDM/ha)	Maturity Class
Revolver	98	38.69	16.28	11
Camelot	91	37.96	15.20	11
Scimitar	94	37.88	15.55	11
Pride	90	38.57	14.96	11



New maturity class 11 varieties offer extreme earliness without significant yield penalty. The short growing season offers the following key benefits:

- mature maize following spring grazing or a first cut;
- an autumn reseed following mature maize;
- potential to establish green cover crops after maize;
- cross compliance/stewardship points through an early harvest;
- earlier access to winter feed stocks.



Mainstream varieties

Variety	DM Yield (% control)	DM %	Yield (tDM/ha)	Maturity Class
Huski CS ‡	107	35.62	17.72	8
Vernal	99	35.43	17.31	8
Crescendo	95	35.27	15.83	8



Maximum yield varieties

Variety	DM Yield (% control)	DM %	Yield (tDM/ha)	Maturity Class
Gladi CS ‡	119	32.15	19.77	5
Gigant	99	32.23	16.43	5
Diplomat	106	32.36	17.59	5
Goldclamp	106	33.16	17.61	5

Higher yields in the latest mainstream and later maturing varieties are now offering growers the following potential benefits:

- more maize from the same acreage allowing lower cost per tonne and reduced bought-in feed costs;
- similar maize tonnage from fewer acres allowing increased returns from summer grazing and/or opportunities for alternative high protein silage crops;
- similar maize from fewer acres, releasing land for out-wintering on brassica crops to reduce housing and bought-in feed costs.

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All data is from the 2008 NIAB Descriptive List of Early Forage Maize Varieties (favourable sites).

‡ denotes Fitcon data

