

# Maize Seed Guide

2025





# Introduction

Welcome to the 2025 edition of the  
ADM Agriculture Maize Seed Guide

This guide is here to support you in making the best decisions on varieties specific to your requirement, by giving you a snapshot of what we have to offer.

It is becoming increasingly important to ensure maximum crop production is achieved when growing maize crops, therefore we have also added some information on crop nutrition, SFI opportunities and undersowing.

We are working alongside a number of maize breeders within the UK to give you access to the best products on the market to fit within your business.

If you have an enquiry or simply want more information about our products and services, call our friendly team on  
**01427 421200**

## Drilling, Where and When?

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.

## Selecting Varieties

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.



# Maize Varieties

BREEDER	PRODUCT	MATURITY		FEED VALUE		MARKET		
		Maize	FAO	Earliness	Dry Matter Yield (t/ha)	Starch Content %	Forage	Biogas
KWS	Agrolino	200	Late/Biogas	19.5		●	●	
	Amaroc	240	Late/Biogas				●	
	Augustus	160	Ultra Early			●		
	Aurelius	180	Early/ Maincrop			●	●	●
	Autens	170	Early/ Maincrop	18.1	34.20%	●	●	●
	Papageno	190	Early/ Maincrop	19.5	32.00%	●	●	●
	Keops	210/220	Late/Biogas			●	●	
	Anastasio	180/190	Early/ Maincrop	19.2	32.50%	●	●	●
	Severus	170	Early/ Maincrop			●	●	●
Grainseed	ES Mydral D50	180	Ultra Early	19.1	30.10%		●	
	ES Lovely	165	Ultra Early	17.7	36.10%	●		
	Faith	170	Ultra Early	18.9	34.60%	●		
	Bonnie	185	Extra Early	18.6	34.80%	●		
	ES Constance	190	Extra Early	19	32.30%			●
	Emeleen	200	Extra Early	19.5	30%		●	
	ES Legolas	210	Extra Early	19.1	29%			
	Crosbey	215	Extra Early	19.1	31.80%		●	●
	Cathy	215	Extra Early	18.9	28.70%	●		
	Micheleen	220	Long Season	20.4	30.60%		●	
	ES Metronom	225	Long Season	18.9	28.30%		●	
	Wesley	200	Long Season			●	●	
Jakleen	230	Long Season	20	29%	●	●		
Elsoms	Mojito	190	Early	18.1		●	●	
	Indem1631	210	Mid-Early	18.04		●	●	
	Hagrid	190	Mid-Early	19		●	●	
	Neutrino	230	Late	17.05			●	
DSV	Shiny	230	Late	19.6	35.70%	●	●	
	Farmunox	210	Extra Early	18.7	32.1% (favourable)	●	●	
	Forttuno	190	Extra Early	21	35.60%	●	●	
	Joy	150	Ultra Early	17.8	36.20%	●	●	
	Petroschka	230	Late	18.3	31%	●	●	
	SL18441 (Aroldo)	200/210		20.49		●	●	●

# Advantages of Growing Maize

Maize offers a range of benefits to those growing it. It has high yield potential and versatility to grow in a range of different climates, due to a number 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 offer 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.



## Recommended Varieties

Here are some of our top pick varieties from our trusted suppliers. These varieties offer a range of purposes including biogas, forage and grain.

### KWS

#### Granturismo

- ✓ Great for Biogas
- ✓ Delivering over 20t/ha DM yields
- ✓ Highest yielding variety on the BSPB maize descriptive list
- ✓ A clear choice on favourable sites

#### Papageno

- ✓ Suitable for forage and Grain
- ✓ A true all purpose variety which delivers excellent grain yields
- ✓ First choice on BSPB maize descriptive list
- ✓ Excellent standing power

#### Autens

- ✓ Early maturing forage
- ✓ Stable and reliable yield performance over 18t/ha DM
- ✓ Excellent early maturing option for flexible drilling and harvest windows
- ✓ Outstanding early vigour (7.5) on all soil types

### Grainseed

#### Crosbey

- ✓ Good forage quality characteristics
- ✓ Early vigour
- ✓ Excellent drought resistance
- ✓ High yielder

#### Es Constance

- ✓ Great variety for grain maize
- ✓ Offering big yields with mature cobs
- ✓ Early vigour
- ✓ Excellent resistance to eyespot and lodging



### DSV

#### Ambient

- ✓ Very early, suiting both early and late sowing
- ✓ Good stem stability
- ✓ Eligible for Forage, AD and Grain

#### Joy

- ✓ Forage and AD
- ✓ Ultra early
- ✓ Above average starch content
- ✓ Good tolerance to cold weather

### Elsoms

#### Mojito

- ✓ Suits both biogas and feed markets
- ✓ Excellent standing to ensure a safe harvest
- ✓ High fresh weight yields
- ✓ Consistent performance

#### Neutrino

- ✓ Excellent early vigour
- ✓ Biogas market
- ✓ Tall and leafy plant structure with excellent stay green creates high biomass for Biogas production
- ✓ Consistently shows strong levels of resistance against fusarium and eyespot

## Physiostart | Microgranular Starter Fertiliser

Optimising 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 (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) – Rapidly soluble for strong root growth
- ✓ 23% Sulphur (SO<sub>3</sub>) – 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:

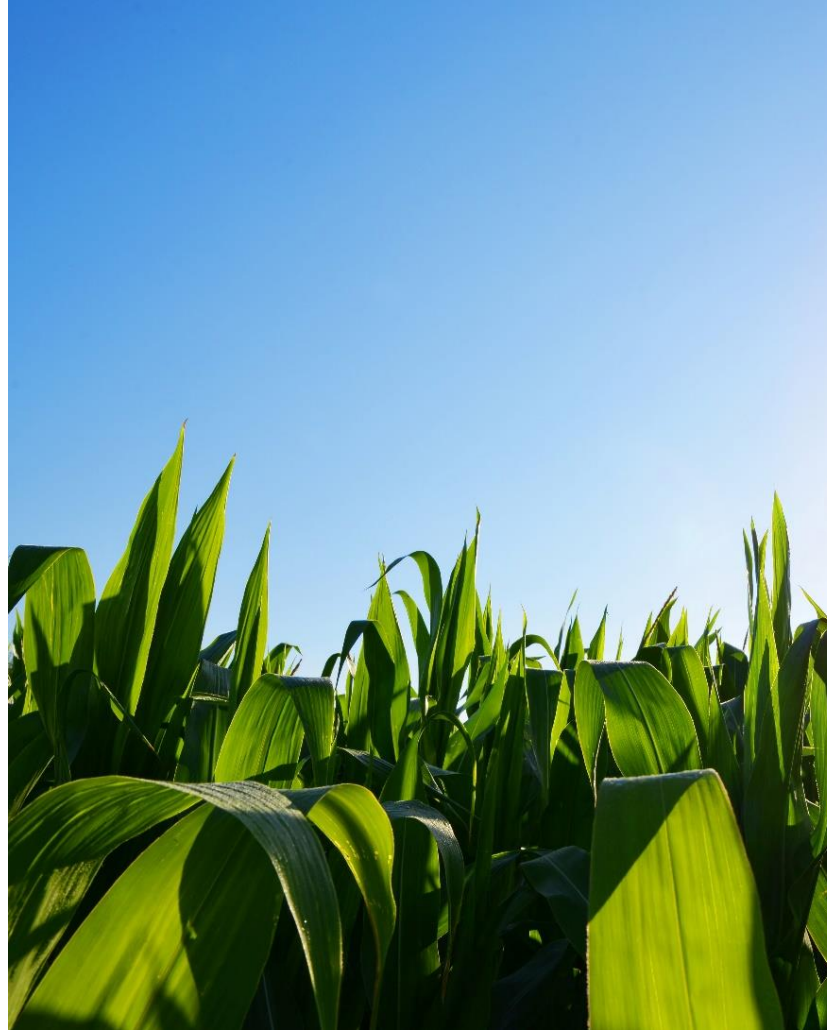
- ✓ Rapid Emergence – Improved phosphorus availability accelerates germination and even emergence.
- ✓ Stronger Root Development – Zinc and sulphur boost root mass and nutrient absorption.
- ✓ Increased Early Vigor – PhysioPro biostimulant enhances root hair growth for better calcium uptake.
- ✓ Reduced 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.

## Undersowing Maize

Please talk to us about the best undersowing product to fit your requirements, we have a large variety of grass mixes and cover crops available.

Undersowing maize can offer a number of benefits to the crop. Firstly, if undersown with a grass, like an Italian Ryegrass, this will provide nitrogen retention and soil retention, especially in fields that may be on a gradual slope for example. This also means once the maize has been harvested, the soil is not left bare and reduces the risk of leaching, which has environmental benefits. The grass sward base can also provide better travelling opportunities when foraging the crop in more testing weather seasons.

Undersowing, should in most cases be done in early June, giving the grass a good chance to establish quickly, but also allowing the maize plant to make the 4-5 leaf stage, without competition. There are a couple of different way this can be executed, some will broadcast grass seed on to the maize crop, which is the cheapest options, but generally leaves lesser results, due to limited seed to soil contact. Many are now using specialist drills, designed speciality for undersowing maize, therefore ensuring the seeds are going into more favourable drilling conditions and reducing the risk of competition with the maize crop, as the grass is specially placed roughly 10cm from the maize row.



Depending on crop rotation, there will be the opportunity to graze the under sown crop with livestock. If you will be winter cropping, there will be substantially more organic matter to incorporate back into the soil. This is also an opportunity with SFI to gain the companion cropping payment of £55/ha on CIPM3. There are other options like min and no till that could also offer financial benefit via SFI, if stacked into your maize hectareage. There is also the possibility of using cover crop options in the correct circumstances, adding additions SFI income.

For further information please contact your  
Farm Trader or call our friendly team on 01427 421200

*This is our primary portfolio of maize varieties, other options are also available.*





# ADM Agriculture

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## About ADM

ADM unlocks the power of nature to enrich the quality of life. As an essential global agricultural supply chain manager and processor, a premier human and animal nutrition provider, a trailblazer in health and well-being, and a leader in sustainability, we're meeting critical needs while nourishing quality of life and supporting a healthier planet. Learn more at [www.adm.com](http://www.adm.com).



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