

MGA TIMES



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Mole Valley
Farmers

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NITROGEN PREDICTOR

Enclosed with this mailing is the MGA N Predictor form.

The Nitrogen predictor is well proven over time, with farmer feedback over the years being used to update the original research based systems. The predictor has also been used by farmers to justify their nitrogen applications to NVZ inspectors and therefore, goes some way to meet the NVZ record keeping requirements. Fill in and return the enclosed N predictor input form to get the ball rolling.

TRAINING DAYS

Following on from last years very successful training days led by Simon Draper, MGA Agronomist, we are holding three more in February.

- February 19th at BayerCrop Science in Cambridge.
- February 21st at Bright Seeds Ltd Salisbury
- February 25th at a venue to be confirmed in Lincolnshire/ Yorkshire area.

Details and booking form are enclosed in this mailing.

APOLOGY

In the 2014 Variety Booklet on page 19 in the list of maize varieties and their breeders, the variety

ES Trust is from Grainseeds (www.grainseed.co.uk).

We apologise to Grainseeds for the mistake and any confusion it may have caused.

LARGEST RESEARCH PROJECT FOCUSED ON THE AGRONOMY OF MAIZE EVER

Within this mailing you will have received a flyer for this year's MGA conference which we hope you come along to. Alongside papers on biogas production from maize and maize growing with and without plastic in Ireland and the South West of England will be the ever popular review of the results from the MGA's own research and development programme. This year's review, will include an update on the two year, two site, DEFRA funded trial focused on **competitive maize cultivation with reduced environmental impact** of which the MGA are a partner. As noted over the page in Kate's review, the trial is starting to yield results and the head of the research team, Brian Chambers, has been booked to come and inform members personally of the lessons learnt so far. Having been to the annual review meeting associated with the project in Norfolk last week, I can confirm that as is often the case there are lots of spinoffs from large scale work such as this. Some of note are that we will have for the first time independent replicated yield and quality data for two types of strip seeders, as well as for maize grown under plastic. The trial is the largest maize research project run in the UK for many years and can only increase our understanding of how the crop performs in this country under various cultivation and establishment regimes. See you in Dumfries to learn more!

MGA MINERALS—PRICE REDUCTION!

It's good to know that not everything is getting more expensive at the moment. The MGA minerals have come down in price. As an example, if you farm in the Midlands 1 tonne of SuperSpec 200 dairy cow minerals cost £402 last autumn and from 6th January 2014 they are now £388/tonne.

Mole Valley Farmers make the minerals to MGA specifications and we receive a commission on every bag sold.

Minerals are ordered direct from Mole Valley Farmers and designated telephone/ fax numbers have been set up for this purpose only - it is **not** possible to order any other MVF products on the numbers given below.

You can either telephone or fax your order on the following numbers:

Telephone 01278 444829 Fax: 01278 446923

Please remember if you have an order to make, a query about delivery, invoicing or product, then please contact the Mole Valley contacts given above.

If you need advice about mineral feeding, or if you have a formulation query, you can telephone the MGA office on 01363 775040.



DEFRA MAIZE RESEARCH REPORT (YEAR 1)
OVER-WINTER RYEGRASS COVER REDUCES SEDIMENT AND NITRATE LEACHING LOSSES

This is the first report on the progress of the DEFRA/ADAS trial by Kate Smith for ADAS.

The first harvest year of the Defra funded "Competitive Maize Cultivation with Reduced Environmental Impact" project has been successfully completed at the two sites in Devon and Norfolk. The experiment is investigating the effectiveness of contrasting over-winter ground cover treatments (i.e. conventional maize stubble, over-sown perennial ryegrass and over-sown biodiverse seed mix) and establishment techniques (strip tillage, ploughing and reduced tillage) on nutrient and sediment losses in surface runoff, nitrate leaching losses to groundwater and maize yields and quality. The perennial ryegrass and biodiverse (mainly a mix of clovers) treatments were established by over-sowing (in June 2012) the growing maize crop. By autumn 2012, the ground cover treatments had established well at both sites; aided by the 'wet' summer conditions.

Over-winter 2012/13 at the Norfolk site, the perennial ryegrass cover reduced sediment losses by c.70% and nitrate leaching losses by c.50% compared with conventional maize stubble, reflecting good ground cover and over winter nitrogen uptake by the well-established grass sward. In contrast, the biodiverse treatment had little effect on either sediment or nitrate leaching losses, due to the limited ground cover and slow over-winter growth which limited N uptake by the mainly leguminous plants. Maize was drilled on all treatments in May 2013 and harvest measurements will quantify the impacts of the contrasting ground cover and establishment techniques on crop yields and quality. This work represents the largest maize experiment to be undertaken in the UK for several years, it is being conducted by ADAS, Rothamsted (North Wyke), Plymouth University and the MGA.



The Norfolk experimental site, following cultivation in spring 2013; showing the contrast between the ryegrass+strip tillage and the ploughing treatments

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

We would like to remind our commercial members that we are happy to include flyers to a maximum of 3 in a mailing. These would go out to 620 members in our distinctive yellow envelopes with our MGA Times and technical notes. It is a good way of targeting maize and wholecrop growing farmers in all parts of the country. There is also the opportunity to put an advert in the Times, Agrii have taken up this offer and we would be able to include one other in each publication. If you are interested, or would like more information please give Jean a ring or email her in the MGA Office.



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