

MGA TIMES

Maize Growers Association

March 2019

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Drilling course review

This month saw our three drilling courses being run at Sparsholt, Kingston Maurward and Plumpton Colleges. After a rocky start with pastries appearing instead of pasties on the first course (thank you to everyone there for being understanding - I'm sure it was nice to have a change of scenery from the usual pasties anyway!), courses ran smoothly and we had a super 51 attendees across all three. I hope that those of you that attended picked up something that you didn't know and enjoyed the chance to grill our **Vaderstad** and **Amazone** representatives. Fortunately, the weather stayed fine for all three so the practical sessions went ahead too. This was our 'trial run' year, and due to its success, we are planning to organise more further up country for next year so don't worry if you've missed out this year! Big thanks go to David Bright and Rod Crossley of **Bright Maize**, Simon Griffiths of **Vaderstad**, Nigel Jones of **Amazone** and the staff members at all three colleges for enabling us to run these courses.



AMAZONE



Poland Trip



In late June we are thinking of running an MGA tour to Poland. We are at the very early stages of organising this but our plan is to have a two-night stay to include tours of two or three farms and a research institute. If you would like to put your name down provisionally (subject to the trip happening of course!) then feel free to drop me an email. I will keep you updated via email, the website, or the Times over the next couple of months as well.



Email

As with last month, for those of you that would prefer to receive your mailings via email, please drop me an email to ensure I have your correct email address and I will add you to the list. You can always change your mind back again if you find you prefer the paper copy!

Nitrogen Predictor Form

We've had a few N predictor forms in and are happy to do more! They don't take long to fill out and can be found on our website, or you're welcome to drop me an email and I'll attach an editable version. It's a no-cost way of finding out how much artificial fertiliser your maize crop will need this year!



Top yields,
Top quality
You now have the
ABILITY



- Outstanding 105% DM*
- Excellent vigour (7.9)
- Early maturity
- Limited availability for 2019

*Mean of official trial controls 2017 and 2018

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Soil Temperatures

As you will have seen in the last mailing and weekly emails, we have had great success with collecting soil temperatures this month. Thank you so much to everyone getting involved and I hope it is proving an interesting read for you all. I am hoping to continue this activity into April so please keep sending me your soil temperatures and if anyone else would like to get involved, contact me on the details overleaf. The below table has the soil temperatures up to the time of printing (sorry that it is so small!). It looks, on the whole, like temperatures are increasing as we head towards drilling and I hope you've all had the sun and heat that we have had down here this week - my lambs are loving it! ☀

Date	Location																						
	Launceston, Cornwall	Holsworthy, Devon	Crediton, Devon	Langoboot, Somerset	West Knighton, Dorchester	Longdippe, Gloucester	Petersfield, Hampshire	Steyning, West Sussex	Eye, Suffolk	Ipswich, Suffolk	Towcester, Northamptonshire	Caustley, Norfolk	Egmore, Norfolk	Kings Lynn, Norfolk	Swaffham, Norfolk	Wells-next-the-sea, Norfolk	Burton Joyce, Nottingham	Grantham, Lincolnshire	Grimsby, Lincolnshire	Holbeach, Lincolnshire	Market Deeping, Lincolnshire	Doncaster, Yorkshire	
4 th March			14 (at 5cm)					8				7			6.6	9.5						6	
11 th March			9	5				6.6				6.1	6	6.5		4.6	3.8					6.6	6
13 th March																		7		7.4			
17 th March												7.9										7.2	
18 th March			10	7	9.5		7.9	7	5.7		8.5 (at 11am)		6	8.3		5.9							7
19 th March														6.4			7.3						
21 st March										9				8.2									
24 th March		8.7										9.3		7.2								9.9	
25 th March	10 (at 4pm)	8.6	11	8	10.5	7	9		6.4		6.9		7		7	7.2	6.6		7.7				7
26 th March		8							5.4														
27 th March		8.3							6.7														
28 th March		8.4							8														
Trend this week			↑1	↑1	↑1		↑1.1		↓0.9		↓1.6	↑1.4	↑1			↑1.3	↓0.7					↑2.7	-

European Maize Meeting

For those of you that haven't heard of the European Maize Meeting (EMM), it is a gathering of a number of maize experts and enthusiasts from across Europe including Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Poland, Belgium, Italy and ourselves. Each year, a different country takes its turn hosting the meeting, and this year we have the privilege of doing so. At the meeting, delegates from each country present their papers on a specific subject; this year the subject is 'Practical Nutrient Management'. It will be held on 3rd and 4th September in the North East of England. Our crude plan so far is as follows:

<u>3rd September</u>	<u>4th September</u>
Arrive	Breakfast
Lunch	Farm and research tour
Meeting	Lunch
Dinner	Departure
Overnight Stay	

Details are yet to be finalised, however we would like to open it up to our members. Therefore, if you would be interested, please save the date and get in touch with us in the office. As with the Poland trip, I will keep you updated as plans develop and there will be plenty of opportunity to sign up for the next several months.

Dates for your diary:

- 11th June - MGA AGM, more details to follow
- Late June - Poland Trip
- 3rd-4th September - European Maize Meeting



The tallest maize plant on record was over 10m tall (33ft)

DID YOU KNOW...?