

MGA TIMES

Maize Growers Association

May 2019

In this issue: *Introduction to 2019 Trials - Agronomy Technical Note 'Drilling Maize' - Nutrition Technical Note 'Additives for Maize and Wholecrop Cereal Silage' - Agronomy Technical Note 'Undersowing' - Starter Phosphate Recommendations (Overleaf)*

NEWS We have organised a herbicide trial demo evening with Syngenta for 3rd July 2019 in Cheshire, open to all members - more details overleaf and to follow

Drilling

Drilling appears to be well underway across the country, with those of you drilling under film starting perhaps a week earlier. As you will see below, soil temperatures seem to be steady at 8 or above now in most areas so hopefully most of you have had the conditions that you need or will have across the next few weeks! I have had news of some healthy emergence from a crop drilled on 16th April in Norfolk, let me know if your maize has started emerging!



Photo courtesy of Joe Foot, MGA council member, drilling under film on 2nd April in the South West

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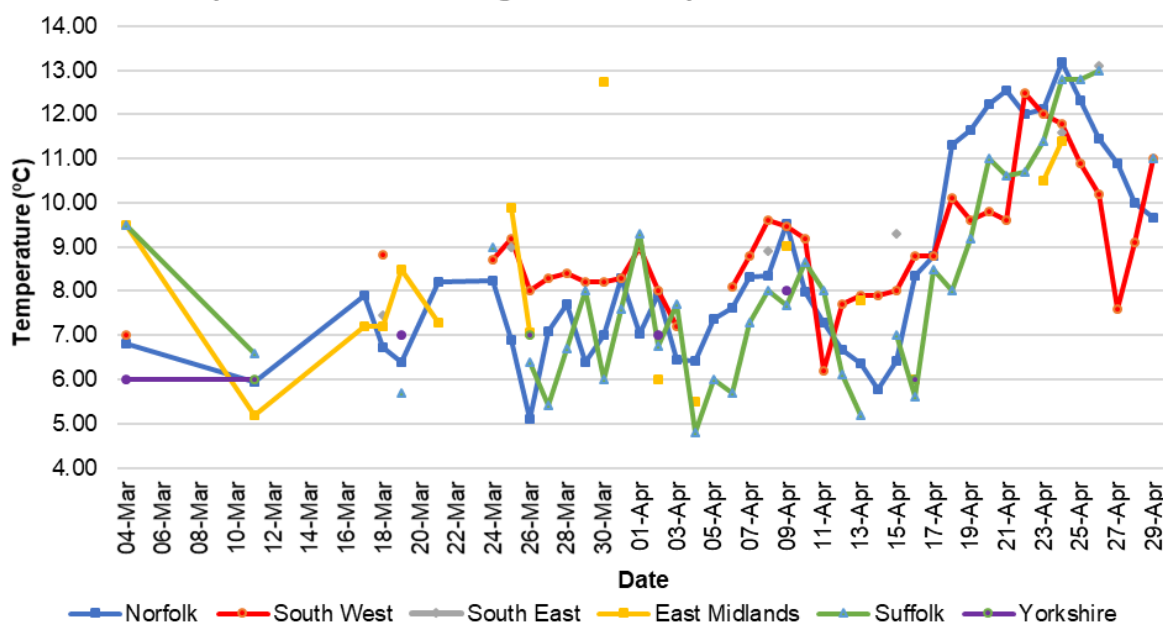
Limited amount
Mesurool and Sonido
treated
Maize seed
Agrii

Soil Temperatures

The below graph shows how temperatures have changed in different regions/counties over the last two months. I have taken averages of all of those values given by people in the same regions and translated this into a graph. Any gaps are due to lack of data in certain periods. As you can see, temperatures were relatively steady until around 7th April when we had a cold spell, and they have increased on the whole

since around 13th April. Hence, some of you drilling under film/plastic were able to start a week earlier! There does not appear to have been one particularly cold region - they have been fairly equal, I suppose with the exception of the south-west being a little warmer most of the time, with Suffolk perhaps having some colder dips than elsewhere. Please keep soil temperatures coming in, I'm planning to stop in late-May.

A Graph to Show the Change in Soil Temperatures Since 4th March



Nitrogen Predictor Form

We've had a lot of N predictor forms in so far so keep them coming! It has been good to see members sending in forms that have done for many years; hopefully this means that the information gained from the results is useful! Over the weeks I have emailed you printable and editable-spreadsheet versions of the N-Predictor form - if you would like either or both sent again, please let me know.



Comparison of UK and Danish Recommendations for the Use of Starter Phosphate in Maize

John Morgan - MGA Office

The table below outlines the recommendations given by the UK system (RB209 Nutrient Management Guide) compared with the Danish recommendation as touched on by our speaker Leif Knudsen at our conference in February. RB209 is a reliable source, however it does not consider the different field conditions, including soil type, as the Danish recommendation does. They also make use of Olsen-P as a soil phosphorus measuring technique, rather than our grouped soil index system, although both are shown below. This table may support your decision in choosing to use starter phosphate, should you know either your soil index or Olsen P values. For more information, please see March's mailing.



The latest version of RB209. This can be downloaded from the internet

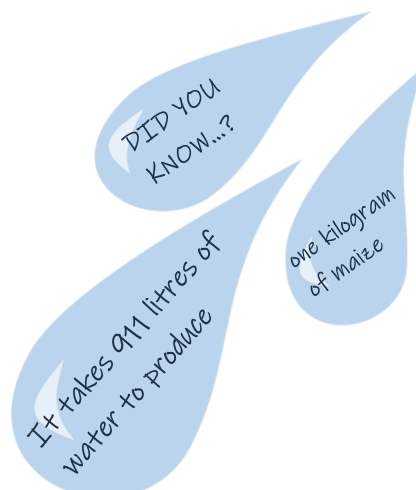
		Olsen-P mg/kg (UK P index)	0-9 (0)	10-15 (1)	16-25 (2)	26-45 (3)	46-70 (4)
		Kg P ₂ O ₅ per ha					
UK	RB209		115	85	55	20	0
Danish	Good Potential for root growth ¹				34	23	0
	Bad Potential for root growth ²				34	34	23

(1) Mild areas, good soil structure, coarse sand: organic matter >2.5%, maize in recent rotation

(2) Cold location, heavy clay soils with bad structure, coarse sand: organic matter <2.5%, dry and loose soil at drilling, no maize in rotation.

Syngenta Herbicide Trial

Alongside the herbicide trials that we are running in Cheshire, Syngenta have asked to run a series of demo plots. Ongoing weed counts will be done and the trial plots will be open for viewing on the evening of 3rd July. You're welcome to come along, with or without warning, but I expect there will be biscuits up for grabs so if I know a rough number of attendees, that would be helpful. But there will be no register so come along for a nosey if you have time.



Dates for your diary:

- 11th June - MGA AGM, more details to follow
- 21st June - First day of Summer 🌞
- Late June - Poland Trip
- 3rd July - Syngenta herbicide trial demo evening, Cheshire
- 3rd-4th September - European Maize Meeting
- 2nd October - Bath and West Dairy Show