



Maize seed ordering

MGA Agronomist Jon Myhill offers some views on Maize Seed ordering for 2021.

Members should be considering early buying of their maize seed this year for several reasons; with the uncertainty over Brexit and imports into the country, supply may come an issue in the Spring. Also, early buying usually gets the best price and access to the widest selection of varieties, many varieties will sell out.

Use the MGA **Site and Maturity Group Selector**. This allows growers to score eight factors and reach a total which identifies the maturity group of the varieties you should be growing in your field. Use the data in the variety booklet to distinguish between varieties in the same maturity group.

Remember variety choice is one of the few cultural practices that can affect both your financial profits and the environment. What we are after is a variety which will come to harvest at the correct time of year, with the maximum amount of yield and with the optimal dry matter.

Following the revocation of several maize seed treatments in recent years, including Sonido and Mesurool, there are now few options for alternative seed treatments:

- **Korit** is the short term replacement for Mesurool (it is likely only to be available for the next few years). It does give some control over birds but is more of a poison and less of an anti-feedant than Mesurool.
- **Force 20** gives some protection against wireworm, and does have a limited effect as a bird repellent.
- **Redigo M** is a seed dressing which acts a fungicide, protecting the seed from seedling disease which can cause dampening-off of young maize shoots

Further to the above some breeders will also offer maize seed with micro nutrients attached to the seed coating, which are meant to improve rooting and seedling health.

CONFERENCE 2021!!

The format this year will be somewhat different to previous conferences, in that we have opted for an online conference, split into two parts on:

23RD FEBRUARY AND 2ND MARCH 2021, FROM 10AM-1PM

We have planned a thought-provoking and forward-thinking selection of topics as detailed below, and hope that this new format will make the Maize Conference more accessible for those of you further afield or with busy diaries. For more information, see the enclosed invite or contact the office on the above details.

- Min till
 - Maize and beans
 - Life without glyphosate
 - Carbon footprint of maize
- How and why we farm the way we do
 - MGA small plot trial results 2020
- Includes all trials, such as seed rate, seed dressings, starter fertiliser, undersowing and more, as well as results from our south west trial site



Bromoxynil

Bromoxynil products are being withdrawn for use in the UK. Fortunately, a number of requests, including from the MGA, have resulted in a grace period being set. **Please note the following deadlines.**

17th March 2021 - for sale and supply

17th September 2021 - for storage, disposal and use

BASIS points

We should remind you, as we reach the end of 2020, that your membership entitles you to two BASIS points. The code to use is

PD/93034/2021/m

Do make the most of these extra membership benefits!

To book, email the MGA office with your name and postal address. Once we have received your email and payment, we will post hard copies of the papers from each of the conference speakers and will email through the links to each event. The cost will be £10 to members, and £30 to non-MGA members. The single fee will gain you access to both parts of the event.

Council Members' Harvest Reviews

We took the opportunity at last weeks MGA Council meeting to gain council members views on harvest. Whilst responses were mixed, all agreed it had been less stressful than harvest 2019!

In Bodmin, Cornwall, Richard Martin reported that he had cut all maize in excellent conditions during **September**, with '**not a rut**' left anywhere. The **following wheat crop** was established mid-late October and has since been sprayed. Fields that are going into maize again got ripped up, and then **mustard** was broadcast on at 3-5 kgs an acre, which is now looking fantastic. Mustard fields look green all over and plants are 3-5 inches tall. **Early-maturing varieties** were to thank for an easy, timely harvest.

Further East, nr Ashburton in Devon, Graeme Cock reports that his maize (under film) harvest was **finished by 20th September** and cereals went in well afterwards. It has been an excellent year for maintaining soil structure in the south west. Graeme has established all his maize and following cereal crops without any ploughing.

On the outskirts of Chester, John Cottle reports his maize has performed much better than in 2019 and was harvested at 31% DM. Further east, John Jackson, farming nr Nottingham, saw a successful harvest starting in mid-September and finishing in November. Where appropriate, John opted to use **loading machines and lorries** instead of tractors and trailers which seemed to work well and **protect soil structure**. Yields were good, although there were patches of localised rain which slowed harvest down in some areas.

Nr Slough, Berkshire, John Whitby had a good harvest. John grows maize primarily for biogas plants which were struggling to source food waste this year so required more maize. South of John, in Surrey, Oli Knowland reported reasonable quantities and quality of maize, waiting to be analysed.

Jon Myhill, who alongside his MGA Agronomist role, runs a family contracting business, also reports a good maize harvest for most of his clients. Heavy rain has held up field work to a certain extent however Jon has been able to establish post maize cover crops in most situations. Harvest was all but over at the time of our council meeting.

Out East in North Norfolk Stephen Temple has managed to harvest all crops and has cover cropped fields. Stephen is the ongoing host for the MGA post harvest cover crop trials, the results of which will be reported at the MGA conference.

Thanks to all the council members for their harvest updates. While 2020 is a year to forget for many reasons it appears that the maize crops have performed well.

Photo—Neil Groom 2020 Maize harvest



Regenerative Agriculture

Council member, AD owner, dairy farmer and cheese producer, Stephen Temple, is a driving force within the MGA when it comes to regenerative agriculture. Below are a few of his video suggestions for those wanting to learn more.

- Ray Weil on soil biology and organic matter <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=98ZGaT7C6io>
- Can Regenerative Agriculture reverse climate change <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=98ZGaT7C6io>
- Arbuscular mycorrhiza function and development <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sx4l4Ct6yeg&t=52s>
- A good quick summary of Regenerative Agriculture https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uj_RgbhJ7XM&t=5s
- David Montgomery and Gabe Brown come highly recommended. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65PvJbn5ZNM>

Stephen also recommends a few relevant YouTube channels including: SARE Outreach, Groundswell Agriculture, Sustainable Food Production, as well as the Maize Growers Association

Listen in to Stephens presentation at the MGA 2021 conference if you'd like to know more about how he has begun to focus more on his soil's health when growing maize.

An advertisement for Korit Pro seed treatment. The background is a close-up of a maize root system in dark soil. In the top left, a red box contains the text 'NEW SEED TREATMENT'. In the center, there is a red logo consisting of a stylized flower or sunburst shape with the letters 'LG' in the middle. Below the logo, the text 'KORIT® PRO' is written in large, bold, black letters. At the bottom, there is a white rounded rectangle containing the text 'Available on LG Maize'. In the bottom right corner, there is a grey box with the text 'Limagrain' and a small logo, and below that, the website 'lgseeds.co.uk/maize' is written in white text on a dark background.

NEW SEED TREATMENT

LG

KORIT® PRO

UNIQUE TRIPLE ACTION

- ✓ Bird Repellent
- ✓ Protects Roots
- ✓ Aids Establishment

Available on LG Maize

Limagrain

lgseeds.co.uk/maize