

MGA TIMES

Maize Growers Association

May 2021

It's not too late to use N Predictor

With the ongoing push to improve Nitrogen Utilisation Efficiency (NUE), growers are contemplating post emergence application of nitrogen either via conventional fertiliser, be that solid or liquid, or alternatively foliar feeds. As in previous years the MGA will continue to compare nitrogen programmes to try and identify opportunities to better match crop requirement with nutrient supplied. A new area of focus this year, on the MGA's south west trial site nr Shepton Mallet in Somerset, is the use of Soil Mineral Nitrogen (SMN) testing combined with Additional Available Nitrogen (AAN) released during the growing season. With the support of CF Fertilisers multiple deep cores were taken to quantify the chemical and organic nitrogen available to the following maize crop. Allowance was also made for the cover crop present on site over the preceding winter.

While the SMN and AAN testing window has now closed there is still time to run your fields through the MGA's well proven Nitrogen Predictor. Completion, and return, of the input form can be via email or post and takes a few minutes. We will run the data through our spreadsheet as well as quantifying, using ADAS Manner, the likely nutrient supply via organic manures, if applied. You will receive an individual field recommendation for nitrogen to aid you in planning this key yield-driving nutrient. Please contact Sarah in the office if you would like to know more.

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SAVE THE DATE

Undersowing Webinar
18th May 2021, 7-7.45pm
Presentation and Q&A
Email the office to register

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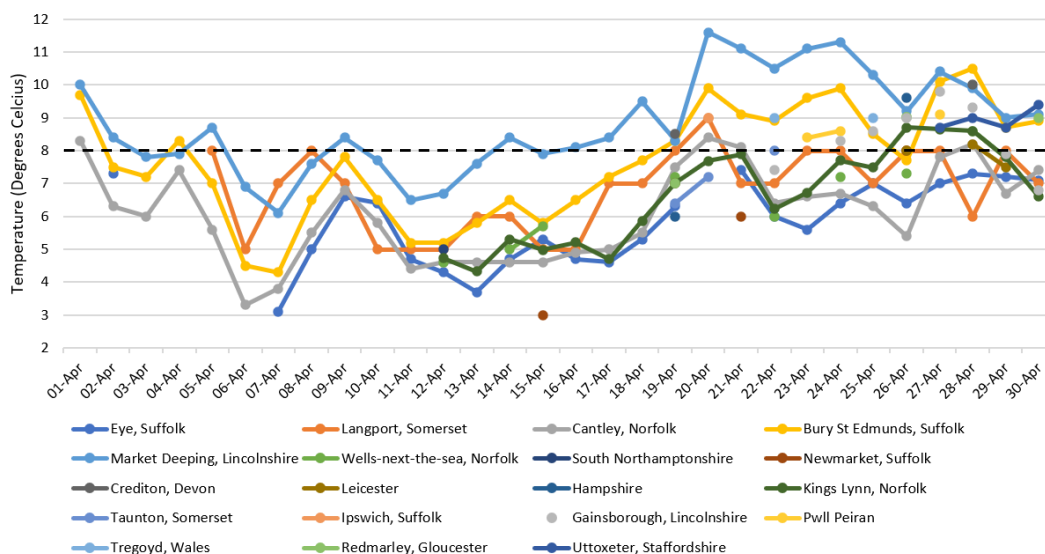


Soil Temperatures 2021 vs 2020

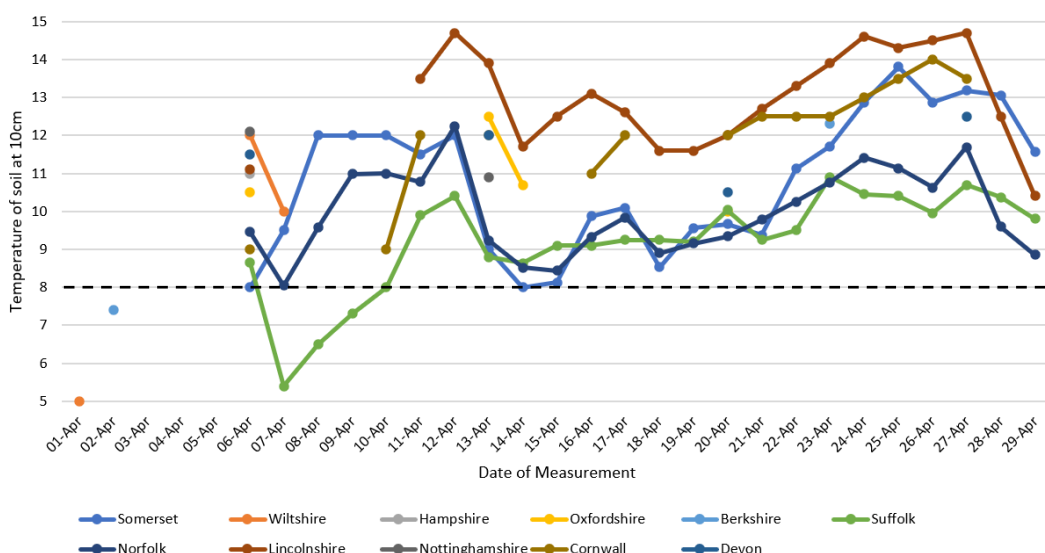
You will have noticed that we have been collecting and distributing soil temperature results over the past few weeks to aid in the drilling start date decision. Those of you that have been submitting readings have realised that it is taking a long time for the ground to warm up this year! The top left graph shows soil temperature results for April 2021, and, below, for April 2020. You may also spot that we have had many more contributors this year, so thank you for that. We aim to carry on for a few more weeks if possible so keep sending your readings in.

We are looking for a target of 8 degrees and above for a week or more. In 2020, the temperature rarely dropped below 8 after 10th April, however this year many areas have struggled to reach the 8 degree starting point by the end of April.

Soil Temperatures April 2021



Soil Temperatures April 2020



Maize and Beans – Please let us know how you are getting on

Members will not be surprised to hear that there has been considerable interest in the potential of growing beans alongside maize to improve biodiversity, nitrogen fixation, and forage protein levels among the other claimed benefits. With farmers being farmers, the interest has turned into action quickly with growers across the country planting beans this spring, to see if the benefits identified in Germany can be repeated on this side of the channel. The MGA were lucky enough to source a small supply of the preferred WAV612 bean variety and have been getting seed out on trial fields and to growers to gain as much experience as possible during the current growing season.



Full PPE is required when emptying drill of treated maize seed in preparation for the beans

For those of you who are 'having a go' please could we ask that you let us know at the office how you are getting on? We are keen to learn of your emergence, weed control and ultimately crop performance experiences. In the first instance please contact the office so that we can add you to our list of growers who we plan to keep in contact with as the season progresses.

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