MGA TIMES

Maize Growers Association

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In this issue: *Introduction to MGA trials 2020 - Post-Emergence Weed Control - Undersowing - Nutrient Planning*

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South West Trials - An Introduction

Alongside the contracted-out small plot trial work outlined in the enclosed trials introduction, we have, with the very generous support of **Wessex Water** established a stand-alone, replicated, trial site near Shepton Mallett in Somerset. The trial features:

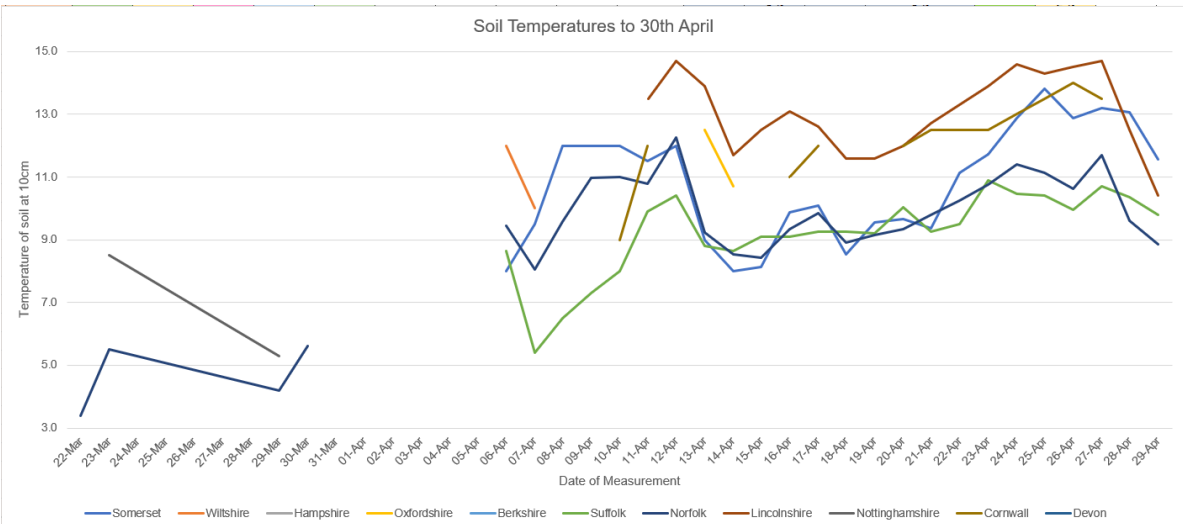
- A drilling date/vs depth treatments where deep (10 cm) and shallow (5cm) drilling will be established, both drilled in April and May
- A nitrogen response curve trial with the MGA Nitrogen Predictor recommendations set along side three different nitrogen applications.
- A starter fertiliser trial with different amounts of DAP and new products (Rise P & QLF Agronomy Carbon Boost) compared with an untreated control
- Undersowing trials where different grass species will be undersown at two different seed rates.

The site was drilled on Monday 20th April with nitrogen applied two days later. Top dressing with more nitrogen and Boost, plus the undersowing, will take place when the time is right.

Ready Steady Go! for the drilling of the SW MGA/ Wessex Water Trial Site

Edit to Simon's drilling paper

The seed rate recommendations in Simon's April technical note were in fact '**established plant populations**' not seed rate recommendations. Please replace the 100,000 and 80,000 figures with **110,000** and **90,000** respectively. We apologise for any confusion caused.

Soil Temperatures So Far…

Thank you to those of you that have sent/are sending in your soil temps this year. I hope to carry on until the end of May as long as we're still receiving your readings here in the office! Below is a graph to show all of the readings so far by county. It is reassuring to see that we're all following the same trend! We were warming up well until a short cold spell at 10th/11th April which brought temps back down all over the country by a few degrees. A warning not to get too confident too early on! Since then, the general trend has been rising steadily and many have taken this opportunity to start drilling if seed beds are ready where you are. With the rain over the last few days we have seen a drop again, but are unlikely to see temperatures plummet below 8°C (we hope!).