



MGA TIMES

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Maize Growers Association
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UNDERSOWING/COVER CROPS COURSE

If you're thinking of undersowing maize or indeed planting a cover crop after your maize and want to learn more, then you will want join our latest webinar. The course will help you understand the benefits it might bring, how to keep costs low and how to minimise the risks of it failing. This is a 40-minute webinar followed by an open Q&A session during which you can ask your specific undersowing and cover crop questions to our speaker and MGA agronomist, Jon Myhill supported by John Morgan.



- Why you should be undersowing / plant a cover crop
- How to go about it
 - Crop choices
 - Seed rates
- Weed control
- Post maize harvest management



This is a free event for both members and non-members. If you would like to book your place please go to our Eventbrite page using this link bit.ly/3LdJSSh

N Predictor

Contained within this mailing is the 2023 input form for the MGA Nitrogen Predictor. In return for filling in and returning, via email, photo or snail mail, the input form we will return to you a nitrogen recommendation for your individual fields. Having run the service for 15 years or so, we are confident in the results generated and have a regular group of members who come back year after year to firm up nitrogen requirements.

An electronic version of the input form is available on the MGA website and or via the office.

MANNER
-NPK

Manner NPK is a free software tool downloadable from the Planet Website (<https://www.planet4farmers.co.uk/manner.aspx>). Manner, with entries including your soil type, location within the country and application details, will generate a report summarising the likely nutrient supply from your slurry, FYM, Compost, digestate and most other organic manure applications. We use Manner NPK in the office to quantify the nitrogen figure in the Nitrogen Predictor and would

recommend that every member download their own copy of Manner NPK.

We simply cannot recommend Manner NPK more highly.

Seed Dressing Lobbying - We need your help.

With an end to the availability and use, of seed dressings, an implication of the BREXIT transition agreements, likely from January 2024, the MGA has teamed up with a group of plant breeders to undertake some political lobbying to educate the farming unions, politicians and others prepared to listen as to the devastating impact of not having treated maize seed available. Lobbying at this level comes at a cost and we are asking, via this mailing, for members, be they commercial or grower, to consider donating to fund the initiative. If you would like to know more about donation packages, please give John Morgan a ring at the MGA office. Supporters can rest assured that their donations will be 100% dedicated to the cause with an income and expenses summary produced at the end of the exercise to show their money has been spent appropriately.

Maize Establishment Webinar

With drilling fast approaching grower focus is now very much on seedbed preparation, drilling and fertiliser requirements. All three subjects were discussed, alongside the latest take on the research, during our recent maize establishment webinar during which both Jon Myhill (MGA Agronomist) and John Morgan (MGA Office Team) talked to members.



Key to Jon’s presentation was to target harvest for mid-September to reduce the risk of compacted wet soils leading to soil wash and or soil erosion over the winter. With the September harvest in mind the talk was of maize heat units/variety choice, cropping planning in field management and undersowing plans. Seedbed preparation via min till or more invasive cultivation was discussed with a focus on precision drilling seed at a consistent depth into uncompacted soil.

Drilling maize as early as soil temperature and seedbed conditions allow was encouraged with evidence of the link between sowing date and harvest date used as supporting evidence. Seed rates for different circumstances and soil conditions alongside the importance of weed control concluded Jon’s presentation.

Starter Fertiliser Recommendations

PHOSPHORUS AVAILABILITY IN SOIL	P INDEX	DIFFICULT SOIL CONDITIONS (COLD SOIL, EXCESS WATER, ACID SOILS)	GOOD SEEDBED AND GROWING CONDITIONS
Very Low	0-1	Recommended	Recommended
From low to medium	1-2	Recommended	Recommended
High	>=3	Recommended (low rate)	Not recommended

John Morgan from the office team, outlined the key principles of Nutrient Management Planning. The importance of Nitrogen, and sulphur as yield dictators was highlighted as were the methods of quantifying the nitrogen supplied from the soil. John introduced the latest version of the MGA Nitrogen Predictor as well as highlighting the impact of soil pH on nutrient availability and in particular phosphate availability. Guidance as to when starter phosphate

fertiliser may be useful was followed by a reminder of the potential of the Manner NPK software to better quantify the nutrient supply from organic manure.

Close to 30 members dialled into the hour long webinar earlier in the month with a further 15 registered growers receiving the link to the recording via email.

If you too would like to listen and watch the session the link for the course is available, at no cost to members, from the MGA office.