



MGA TIMES

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Maize Growers Association
 July 2023

SOUTH WEST TRIAL SITE OPEN EVENING 2023



Maize growers Association are pleased to present

Wednesday 26th July 2023 from 6-8pm

You are invited to take a look around our 2023 small plot trials in Shepton Mallet on Wednesday 26th July! Free to attend and open to all. A good opportunity to bring along your non-member friends, colleagues and neighbours to show them a bit more about what the MGA do. We will be talking you through the background of each trial, what we hope to find out, and any observations made so far.

Trial site is hosted by Steanbow Farms. All details on the Eventbrite link below to book your place

Trials being run at the MGA site this year include:

- Starter Fertiliser inc biostimulents
- Nitrogen Curve inc foliar nitrogen
- Drilling depths & Maize/Beans
- Undersowing with alternative species

BASiS points applied

bit.ly/3O9EWGu

If you need any help or more information please contact Kate at info@maizegrowersassociation.co.uk

This years SW site is sponsored by



MGA NORFOLK TRIAL SITE OPEN BREAKFAST

Maize growers Association are pleased to present

Wednesday 9th August 2023

The Maize Growers Association would like to invite you to see our small plot trials near Wymondham, Norfolk on Wednesday 9th August at 8am. There will be the opportunity to look around the small plot trials being run here, as well as to hear about the theory behind them and learn of any observations found so far.

Tea/coffee/bacon sandwiches will be provided! Open to any non-member contacts (at a £6.50 charge to cover the cost of their breakfast) that you may have so that they can see a little of what the MGA do, and perhaps be encouraged to join to find out the final trial results at the conference next year.

Trials being run at the MGA site this year include:

- Nitrogen Curve and N Inhibitors
- Fungicides
- Biostimulants

To book your place (which includes a breakfast bap and tea or coffee) please go to our Eventbrite link

bit.ly/46MXcwC

The trial site is near Wymondham, Norfolk, kindly hosted by David Jones, Morley Farms.

Please contact Kate at info@maizegrowersassociation.co.uk if you have any questions.

Trials Update 2023

We are pleased to report that the full compliment of MGA trials are up and running which bearing in mind the challenging conditions is a real success.

At the South West trial site maize was drilled late, due to the wet spring. Although the crop is still a little behind it is starting to progress now that it has some much-needed rain. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the companies sponsoring the MGA SW trial site. QLF, Natural England and Wessex Water whose contributions made the SW trial site possible this year. Thanks also to Steanbow Farms for practical work on the ground and Green Farm Seeds for Undersowing seeds. Thanks also for product from the foliar nitrogen (Efficient 28 & PolyN) and phosphate (Yara), suppliers.



Impact of drilling depth in a dry spring



Undersowing at SW MGA site July 2023

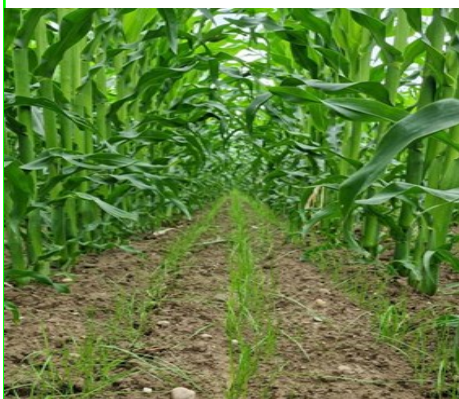
Those keen to learn more about the trials, including starter options, foliar nitrogen, under sowing and more can join the MGA team for an open evening on Wednesday 26th July.

In the East at our small plot trial sites at Morley, Norfolk they had a slightly earlier start than in the SW but unfortunately a cold one with soil temperatures being increasingly low. I (Kate) was there a couple of weeks ago for the Morley Farm Innovation Day and had a tour of the Morley trials. Although again behind they were looking healthy especially after some much need warm weather and rain.

We are testing multiple different products in our bio stimulants, fungicides and herbicides trials this year at 3 different sites around the country. Seed dressing options continue to be reviewed, unfortunately the untreated plots at Harper were attacked by the rooks and all the seed was lost within a 2-week period!. We also have undersowing trials which seem to be doing well in most of the trials so far.

This year we are also running a Soil Nitrogen Supply (SNS) trial over three sites in Somerset, Devon and Norfolk . The trial involves frequent sampling of soil and crop leaf material and in time comparison or these results with pre season predictions (SNS). Our first samples are back already and we look forward to sharing the results of this trial with you at the MGA conference next year. Again, this trial would not have gone ahead without our kind sponsors of the site so a big thank you to Limagrain, Yara, KWS, Grainseed and Wessex Water for helping us to be able to carry out this important work.

Last week saw MGA Council Member Neil Groom visit the trials at Harper Adams where amongst other things we are taking another look at growing maize and Rancho beans alongside each other. Increased biodiversity, higher silage protein levels and the potential to fix nitrogen are the drivers. The ongoing challenge is to balance weed control and germination speed. The maize and beans at the South West Site have also got off to a good start. Meanwhile first time undersower John



Undersown grass on J Jacksons, farm

Jackson is impressed with what he has seen so far. John grows maize for anaerobic digestion nr Nottingham and has undersown his maize this year to provide over winter green cover which he hoped will take up some surplus nitrogen and hold soil in the field. So far so good John with three lovely rows of grass establishing under the maize. MGA research indicates that maize yield will not be affected by the undersown crop. Replicated undersown maize trials are ongoing in the east and west of the country with many alternatives to grass being tested.



Neil, Maize and Beans at Harper Adams

Seed Dressing

The pace has hotted up in recent weeks as the threat to the availability of seed dressings in the UK rises. Julian



Little has led the industry funded consortium activity in both lobbying and production of the Emergency Authorisation applications for the three established dressings on behalf of the MGA and others (grower organisations are the only bodies eligible to apply for Emergency Authorisations). We have also been talking to manufactures of a new (fourth) bird deterrent seed dressing in regard the application for Emergency Authorisation. Progress has been good with the applications now submitted to the authorities. Furthermore, at a meeting convened by Mark Spencer Minister of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs earlier in the week, it became clear that decision makers understand the seriousness and implications if approval for ongoing use is not given. Thanks to all involved and particularly Neil Groom who has been dogged in his activity on behalf of the industry.

Maize Eyespot (Kabatiella zeae)

The very hot and dry weather conditions of June have been replaced by much needed rain for many. Temperatures have also dropped a little. Cooler (<12 degrees C) and moist conditions are however ideal for Maize Eyespot to develop so we encourage all to on the lookout from the 8 leaf onwards stage of crop development. Look out for small, colourless spots on leaves and beware that spores are spread on the wind so small areas of disease can spread very quickly. We know from past MGA research that fungicide can hold eyespot at bay for upto 60 days and are well worth using if disease is spotted early. Commet 200 is recommended at 1 lt/ha. Please note a second application may be needed later in the season. As you may have picked up in last month's MGA Times members have been asked to send Eyespot Samples to NIAB to help improve knowledge of the different eyespot strains. Please contact the MGA office to learn how and to where samples should be sent.



Morley Innovation Day

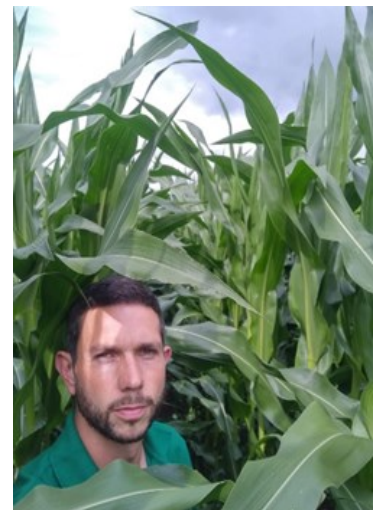
The MGA team has been on the road again with Kate, Jon Myhill and Neil Groom all taking their turn on the MGA stand at the Morley Innovation Day last month. The event proved a great success for all involved with an enthusiastic turnout and several positive conversations. Thanks, Kate, for making it happen. Left to right alongside the MGA table of goodies are Jon, Kate and Neil.



MGA stand at Moley Innovation Day June 2023

Stand Up Jon!!

Jon Myhill has been talking, on behalf of the MGA, at and AHDB group meeting in Cheshire. Jon's photos of what looks like fantastic maize prompted the 'Stand Up' jokes. Jon assured us that he is up on two legs and confirmed with other photos that tassels are appearing which suggest harvest is not too far away.



MGA AGM

We are holding our annual AGM on Thursday 7th September at 11am at Harper Adams. If you would like to join us please contact Kate in the office on info@maizegrowersassociations.co.uk