

2026 MAIZE VARIETIES

VARIETY	MATURITY GROUP	COB RIPENESS SCORE	FAO ESTIMATE	GROWING AREA	SOIL TYPE SUITABILITY	EARLY VIGOUR	REC SOWING RATE/ ACRE	YIELD % OF CONTROLS (NIAB)	STARCH CONTENT	ME LEVEL	STANDING POWER	KEY VARIETY ATTRIBUTES/COMMENTS
FAITH	9	8.2	170	Fav/Less Fav	Medium/Heavy	Excellent	42,500-45,000	104	High 35.5	Outstanding 11.5	7.8 Excellent	A new variety reaching the pinnacle of modern breeding delivering in all aspects. Very high yielding at 104% of controls for less favourable sites. Great cob formation on a robust plant helps provide a high quality, high energy silage. Good resistance to fusarium extends harvest window compared to other ultra early varieties. Expect high demand for this variety.
ES MYRDAL	8	7.3	180	Fav/Less Fav	Medium/Bodied	Excellent	42,500-45,000	106	Average 31.1	Good 11.3	7.3 Good	A very large, robust maturity class 8 plant which produces large cobs. Exceptional yields on favourable sites, and suitable for medium/bodied soils. Performed very well in the drought of 2025. Will produce yields in excess of 50t/ha given sufficient nutrients and moisture.
BONNIE	8	7.8	185	Fav/Less Fav	Light/Medium	Excellent	40,000-45,000	102	High 35.8	Outstanding 11.7	7.9 Excellent	Outstanding variety with exceptional yield & quality, backed up by its impressive data set. Exhibits decent drought tolerance. Superb cob set maximising energy output. Grown by NIAB as the Quality control variety. Some farmers have crimped this variety for rocket fuel animal feed.
ES CONSTANCE (Forage & Grain)	8	7.6	190	Fav/Less Fav	Medium/ Bodied	Excellent	42,500-45,000 (40,000 - 42,000 under film)	102	Good 33.5	Outstanding 11.6	8.2 Excellent	Very consistent, very robust all round variety suitable for varied soil profiles. This variety enjoys some body in the soil. An excellent cob set produces high yields of good quality silage. Also ideal for proven grain production qualities and performs well under film.
EMELEEN	7	7.4	200	Fav	Sand/Light/ Medium	Excellent	38,000-42,500	104	Average 30.5	Outstanding 11.4	7.6 Good	This massive high yielding variety is a great addition to our portfolio, giving 104 of yield over controls on Favourable sites. It exhibits decent drought tolerance, has excellent early vigour with an impressive cob set. To optimise yield drill early on best growing sites.
Wesley NEW	7	7.4	210	Fav	Light/Medium/ Heavy	Excellent	40,000-42,000	106	Good 30.4	Good 11.3	7.4 Good	This exciting very high yielding forage & grain variety has really proved itself in the last 3 years in Official trials, producing some of the best yield results in 2025. Good smut resistance, drought tolerance and great lodging resistance it is the variety to try in 2026
ES LEGOLAS	7	7.0	210	Fav/Less Fav	Light/ Medium/Bodied	Good	40,000-45,000	102	Average 29.3	Good 11.1	7.8 Good	Drill early for enormous potential from a variety that will grow in a wide spectrum of soils, also enjoying more bodied fields. Stay green with excellent fusarium resistance.
CROSBY (Forage & Grain)	7	7.0	215	Fav	Sand/Light/ Medium	Average	38,000-42,500	103	Good 32.8	Good 11.4	8.0 Excellent	Superb dual purpose variety for both silage and grain, producing some of the best yield results on lighter soils. Produces robust plants exhibiting sturdy strong stems and superb cob set. European data & our own UK experience suggests excellent tolerance of heat & drought, which we have seen over the last 3 years in the UK.
Revelation NEW	6	6.9	220	Fav	Light/Medium/ Heavy	Excellent	40,000-42,000	105	Good 29.3	Outstanding 11.5	7.3 Good	This new variety has a great combination of yield and quality driven by very high cell wall digestibility 58.9%. For growers feeding high genetic cows that require energy dense silage. Compare to your current varieties on farm in 2026 to benefit from the improved yield and digestibility.
MICHELEEN (Forage & Grain)	6	6.5	220	Fav	Sand/Light/ Medium	Superb	36,000-40,000	106 NIAB Very Favourable Sites Trial	Good 30.3	Outstanding 11.2	7.5 Good	This superb variety has proved its drought tolerance in the last 3 years, producing some of the highest yields seen in 2025. The only variety on NIAB Descriptive List yielding over 20t DM/ha Technically it has no real weaknesses and compares very favourably to other varieties in this sector. On sandy soils drill at 85,000 seeds/ha to maximise water usage.
ES METRONOM	6	6.0	225	Fav	Medium	Excellent	38,000-42,500	99 NIAB Very Favourable Sites DL	Average 28.6	Average 11.0	8.0 Excellent	Proven for a few years now. Massive yields producing around 18.8 tonnes DM/ha in NIAB 3rd Cut Descriptive List. Has excellent disease resistance and standing power, very important for such a large plant. For best results drill on medium soils in very favourable regions.
JAKLEEN	5	6.0	225	Fav	Sand/Light	Superb	36,000-40,000	105 NIAB Very Favourable Sites Trial	Good 29.4	Outstanding 11.3	7.9 Excellent	For those wanting yield in a dry site, this new addition is for very favourable UK maize sites easily giving potential yields exceeding 50 tonnes per hectare. Has exhibited good drought tolerance in past 4 years. Suitable for the lightest of soils and drill early at a lower seed rate for best results.