THE LG MAIZE VARIETY SELECTION GUIDE

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize, Grain & AD

Limagrain Field Seeds

Limagrain

INDEPENDENT DATA TO AID VARIETY CHOICE

Welcome to The LG Maize Variety Selection Guide

The recent exceptionally dry seasons have challenged maize growers, with moisture stress affecting crop development and reducing yields. As a result, demand for forage maize is expected to remain strong, as dairy and livestock producers seek to rebuild silage reserves. Continued expansion of the anaerobic digestion sector is also expected to support further market growth.

Improved genetics and earlier-maturing varieties are enabling successful maize production in more northern and marginal growing regions than ever before. Grain maize also presents increasing opportunities for arable growers, offering improved profitability, rotational benefits and greater cropping flexibility.

The independent five-year data featured in this LG Maize Guide highlights varieties that deliver consistent performance across a wide range of growing conditions and seasons. Key agronomic characteristics are included, such as rapid early vigour, which helps crops make the most of available soil moisture, establish strong root systems and achieve early canopy cover to maximise yield potential. By using the LG Maize Guide, growers can reduce risk, optimise variety selection and fully benefit from the advances in maize genetics.

The UK is not alone in experiencing weather extremes, with drought affecting many maize-growing regions across Europe. This has inevitably impacted maize seed production for all breeders, resulting in some supply challenges. We therefore encourage growers to discuss variety requirements and availability as early as possible to secure their preferred choice.

We wish you a successful and productive growing season.

Tim Richmond

LG Maize Product Manager, UK & Ireland

New Independent Data from the BSPB/ NIAB

This year's LG Maize Guide introduces a revised approach to analysing BSPB/ NIAB trial data, while retaining the familiar format used in previous editions.

The Descriptive Lists continue to be based on independent BSPB/ NIAB trial data, collected across multiple sites and seasons. However, rather than assessing separate datasets for the Favourable and Less Favourable Lists, all data from across the trial network is now analysed as a single dataset. This better reflects the continuous range of maize maturities and improves the prediction of performance for newer varieties with limited trial data.

To help growers select suitable varieties, the results are still presented in two categories:

- **Short Season (Less Favourable) List** - contains varieties requiring fewer heat units to reach maturity, making them suitable for marginal areas or later drilling
- **Long Season (Favourable) List** - includes varieties that require more heat units and are best suited to stronger maize-growing regions

Richard Camplin

LG Forage Technical Manager, UK & Ireland

Check out our short videos on how to get the best out of your LG Maize Guide:

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM YOUR MAIZE?

GET THE BASICS RIGHT - MATURITY CHOICE THAT SUITS YOU

Avoiding Soil Compaction Issues at Harvest

Having to wait for later maturing maize varieties to be ready to harvest can cause serious problems with soil compaction, which results in surface water run-off and erosion in wet autumn conditions. This can be avoided by choosing a suitably early-maturing variety to harvest in September, allowing time for field work to be carried out, or to establish a follow-on crop.

Use the Maturity Manager Section in the App!

It is critical to choose the right maturity range for your situation. You must avoid harvesting in unpredictable conditions in October that could lead to compaction and damage soil structure.

The Maturity Manager section of the app can provide you with the recommended FAO range for your farm, by simply inputting your postcode. Further advice on suitable varieties to use within this maturity range is also available.

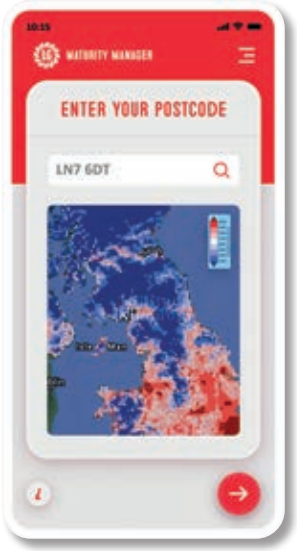
Download from the Apple or Google store.

Download on the App Store

ANDROID APP ON Google play

Download Apple app

Download Android app



Using the LG Heat Map Tool

The LG Heat Map Tool has been developed by Limagrain, in conjunction with The Met Office to provide quick and easy advice for selection of appropriate maturing varieties.

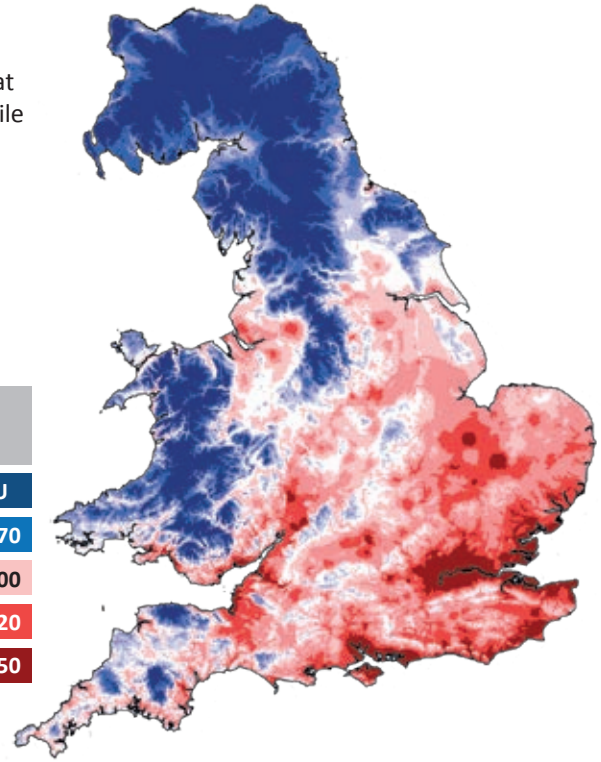
The tool uses the internationally recognised Ontario Heat Unit (OHU) system to show the average heat units available for maize to be grown in a location. Maize varieties differ in the number of heat units required to reach maturity and this affects their suitability to be grown in different locations. As a guide:

LG Heat Map

The dark red areas have plenty of heat units available for growing maize, while the dark blue areas are unsuitable, due to lack of sufficient heat units.

Marginal areas requiring earlier maturing varieties are shown in the bordering lighter colours.

Maturity Group	FAO Range
UNSUITABLE	<2300 OHU
ULTRA AND VERY EARLY	FAO 130-170
EARLY	FAO 170-200
LATE	FAO 200-220
VERY LATE	FAO 220-250



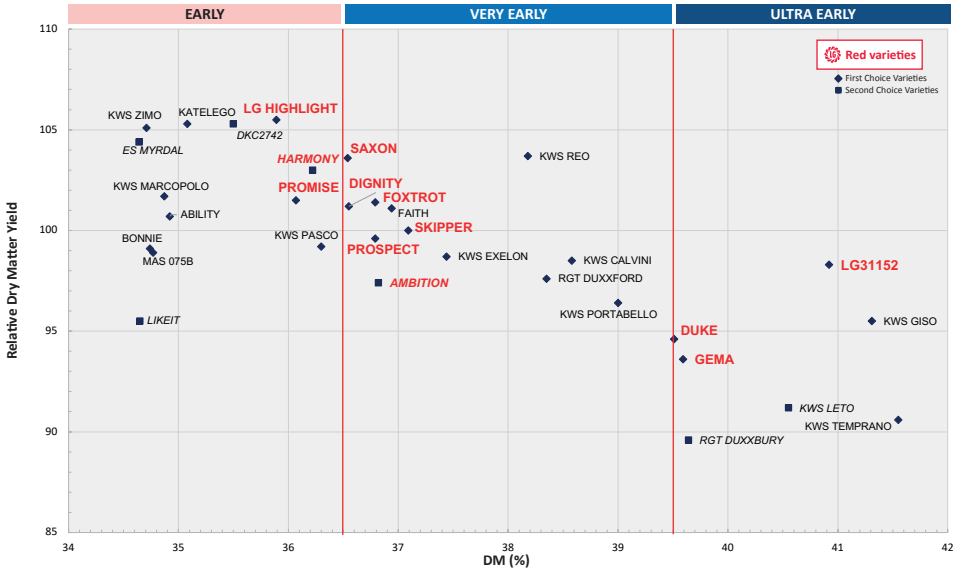
VARIETY DATA IN TABLE AND CHART FORMAT

Tables Provide the Full Set of Trials Data

MATURITY GROUP	VARIETY	MATURITY: FAO RATING **	MATURITY: DM% (at harvest)	MATURITY: EARLIER/ LATER TO HARVEST (# Days +/- Prospect)	YIELD DATA: DM YIELD (t/ha)	YIELD DATA: RELATIVE DM YIELD (%)	AGRONOMIC DATA: EARLY VIGOUR (9=good, 1=poor)	AGRONOMIC DATA: STANDING (at harvest 9=good, 1=poor)	AGRONOMIC DATA: LODGING (%)	AGRONOMIC DATA: LEAF SENESCENCE (at harvest 9=good, 1=poor)	AGRONOMIC DATA: EYESPOT RATING (9=good, 1=poor)	YEAR LISTED
Mean of the year 4 & 5 varieties			*35.6*	*36.8*	*18.0*	*100*	*7.0*	*7.8*	*0.9*	*6.4*	*5.7*	
ULTRA EARLY	KWS TEMPRANO	130	41.6	17	16.3	91	7.0	7.9	0.9	3.8	4.9	2024
ULTRA EARLY	KWS GISO NEW	130	41.3	16	17.2	96	7.0	7.7	1.2	4.3	6.1	2026
ULTRA EARLY	LG31152	130	40.9	14	17.7	98	7.2	7.7	1.2	5.3	5.7	2025
ULTRA EARLY	GEMA	140	39.6	10	16.9	94	6.7	7.5	1.5	5.7	6.4	2021
ULTRA EARLY	DUKE	150	39.5	10	17.1	95	7.0	7.7	1.2	5.6	6.6	2024
VERY EARLY	KWS PORTABELLO	150	39.0	8	17.4	96	7.4	8.0	0.5	5.6	6.4	2025
VERY EARLY	KWS CALVINI	150	38.6	6	17.8	99	7.1	8.0	0.6	5.1	7.2	2019
VERY EARLY	RGT DUXXFORD NEW	150	38.4	5	17.6	98	6.8	7.9	0.7	6.0	2.3	2026
VERY EARLY	KWS REO	160	38.2	5	18.7	104	7.2	7.8	1.1	5.5	6.0	2025
VERY EARLY	KWS EXELON	160	37.4	2	17.8	99	7.0	7.7	1.2	6.3	8.1	2021
VERY EARLY	SKIPPER	170	37.1	1	18.0	100	7.1	8.1	0.5	6.7	2.6	2023
VERY EARLY	FAITH	170	36.9	1	18.3	101	7.3	8.0	0.6	6.1	2.9	2023
VERY EARLY	FOXTROT	170	36.8	0	18.3	101	7.2	7.5	1.5	6.9	2.1	2023
VERY EARLY	PROSPECT	170	36.8	0	18.0	100	7.0	7.9	0.8	6.8	7.6	2019
VERY EARLY	DIGNITY	170	36.6	-1	18.3	101	7.2	7.9	0.8	6.2	1.9	2022
VERY EARLY	SAXON	170	36.5	-1	18.7	104	7.5	7.6	1.4	6.2	2.4	2022
EARLY	KWS PASCO	170	36.3	-2	17.9	99	6.8	7.8	0.9	6.2	8.1	2022
EARLY	HARMONY *	180	36.2	-2	18.6	103	7.2	7.1	2.3	6.7	5.3	2025
EARLY	PROMISE	180	36.1	-3	18.3	102	7.0	7.7	1.1	6.3	1.9	2024
EARLY	LG HIGHLIGHT NEW	180	35.9	-3	19.0	106	6.7	8.2	0.3	7.0	6.9	2026
EARLY	KATELEGO NEW	180	35.1	-6	19.0	105	7.0	7.7	1.1	6.6	6.3	2026
EARLY	ABILITY	180	34.9	-7	18.2	101	7.3	8.1	0.4	6.8	5.8	2020
EARLY	KWS MARCOPOLO NEW	180	34.9	-7	18.4	102	6.8	6.9	2.6	6.5	6.3	2026
EARLY	MAS 075B	190	34.8	-7	17.9	99	7.0	7.6	1.4	6.5	6.2	2024
EARLY	BONNIE	190	34.7	-7	17.9	99	7.3	8.0	0.6	7.2	5.9	2017
EARLY	KWS ZIMO	190	34.7	-7	19.0	105	7.1	7.9	0.8	6.7	6.1	2025

NEW New in 2027 ** Limagrain estimation of FAO * Second choice variety # Limagrain estimate of days earlier / later to harvest than Prospect

Charts Visually Show Maturity and Yield Data



Tabular Data to Aid Your Variety Decision

The tables provide useful independent data on both agronomics and feed quality for maize.

To help growers select suitable varieties, the results are presented in two categories:

- **Short Season (Less Favourable) List** - contains varieties requiring fewer heat units to reach maturity, making them suitable for marginal areas or later drilling
- **Long Season (Favourable) List** - includes varieties that require more heat units and are best suited to stronger maize-growing regions

Varieties are Split into Maturity Segments

The four main groups are:

Ultra Early Good for marginal sites

Very Early Suitable for an early harvest

Early For mainstream good sites targeting feed quality and yield

Late For only the best sites and targeting high yield potential

RELATIVE DRY MATTER YIELD AND AGRONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2027: Less Favourable Sites (Short Season Varieties)

VARIETIES FOR LESS FAVOURABLE SITES

FIRST CHOICE VARIETIES - RANKED BY EARLINESS

		MATURITY			YIELD DATA		AGRONOMIC DATA					
MATURITY GROUP	VARIETY	FAO RATING **	DM% (at harvest)	EARLIER/ LATER TO HARVEST (# Days +/- Prospect)	DM YIELD (t/ha)	RELATIVE DM YIELD (%)	EARLY VIGOUR (9=good, 1=poor)	STANDING (at harvest 9=good, 1=poor)	LODGING (%)	LEAF SENESCENCE (at harvest 9=good, 1=poor)	EYESPOT RATING (9=good, 1=poor)	YEAR LISTED
Mean of the year 4 & 5 varieties			*35.6*	*36.8*	*18.0*	*100*	*7.0*	*7.8*	*0.9*	*6.4*	*5.7*	
ULTRA EARLY	KWS TEMPRANO	130	41.6	17	16.3	91	7.0	7.9	0.9	3.8	4.9	2024
	KWS GISO NEW	130	41.3	16	17.2	96	7.0	7.7	1.2	4.3	6.1	2026
	LG31152	**130**	**40.9**	**14**	**17.7**	**98**	**7.2**	**7.7**	**1.2**	**5.3**	**5.7**	**2025**
	GEMA	**140**	**39.6**	**10**	**16.9**	**94**	**6.7**	**7.5**	**1.5**	**5.7**	**6.4**	**2021**
	DUKE	**150**	**39.5**	**10**	**17.1**	**95**	**7.0**	**7.7**	**1.2**	**5.6**	**6.6**	**2024**
VERY EARLY	KWS PORTABELLO	150	39.0	8	17.4	96	7.4	8.0	0.5	5.6	6.4	2025
	KWS CALVINI	150	38.6	6	17.8	99	7.1	8.0	0.6	5.1	7.2	2019
	RGT DUXXFORD NEW	150	38.4	5	17.6	98	6.8	7.9	0.7	6.0	2.3	2026
	KWS REO	160	38.2	5	18.7	104	7.2	7.8	1.1	5.5	6.0	2025
	KWS EXELON	160	37.4	2	17.8	99	7.0	7.7	1.2	6.3	8.1	2021
	SKIPPER	**170**	**37.1**	**1**	**18.0**	**100**	**7.1**	**8.1**	**0.5**	**6.7**	**2.6**	**2023**
	FAITH	170	36.9	1	18.3	101	7.3	8.0	0.6	6.1	2.9	2023
	FOXTROT	**170**	**36.8**	**0**	**18.3**	**101**	**7.2**	**7.5**	**1.5**	**6.9**	**2.1**	**2023**
	PROSPECT	**170**	**36.8**	**0**	**18.0**	**100**	**7.0**	**7.9**	**0.8**	**6.8**	**7.6**	**2019**
	DIGNITY	**170**	**36.6**	**-1**	**18.3**	**101**	**7.2**	**7.9**	**0.8**	**6.2**	**1.9**	**2022**
	SAXON	**170**	**36.5**	**-1**	**18.7**	**104**	**7.5**	**7.6**	**1.4**	**6.2**	**2.4**	**2022**
EARLY	KWS PASCO	170	36.3	-2	17.9	99	6.8	7.8	0.9	6.2	8.1	2022
	HARMONY *	**180**	**36.2**	**-2**	**18.6**	**103**	**7.2**	**7.1**	**2.3**	**6.7**	**5.3**	**2025**
	PROMISE	**180**	**36.1**	**-3**	**18.3**	**102**	**7.0**	**7.7**	**1.1**	**6.3**	**1.9**	**2024**
	LG HIGHLIGHT NEW	**180**	**35.9**	**-3**	**19.0**	**106**	**6.7**	**8.2**	**0.3**	**7.0**	**6.9**	**2026**
	KATELEGO NEW	180	35.1	-6	19.0	105	7.0	7.7	1.1	6.6	6.3	2026
	ABILITY	180	34.9	-7	18.2	101	7.3	8.1	0.4	6.8	5.8	2020
	KWS MARCOPOLO NEW	180	34.9	-7	18.4	102	6.8	6.9	2.6	6.5	6.3	2026
	MAS 075B	190	34.8	-7	17.9	99	7.0	7.6	1.4	6.5	6.2	2024
	BONNIE	190	34.7	-7	17.9	99	7.3	8.0	0.6	7.2	5.9	2017
	KWS ZIMO	190	34.7	-7	19.0	105	7.1	7.9	0.8	6.7	6.1	2025

NEW New in 2027 ** Limagrain estimation of FAO * Second choice variety # Limagrain estimate of days earlier / later to harvest than Prospect

Selecting varieties by yield may result in a significantly later harvest. Don't rule out earlier varieties with a lower yield but excellent feeding quality.

Maturity

Choose varieties with an appropriate maturity. The lower the FAO rating, the earlier the variety will mature.

Yield Data

Dry matter yield

Earlier varieties ensure crop maturity, but may have lower yields.

Agronomic Data

Early vigour

Strong, vigorous plants quickly establish roots and leaf canopy.

Standing

Ability to remain upright at harvest.

Lodging

% Plants leaning > 30° at harvest.

Leaf senescence

A higher score means plants remain green and healthy up to harvest. Lower scoring varieties may suffer from diseases like Fusarium.

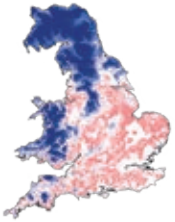
Eyespot rating

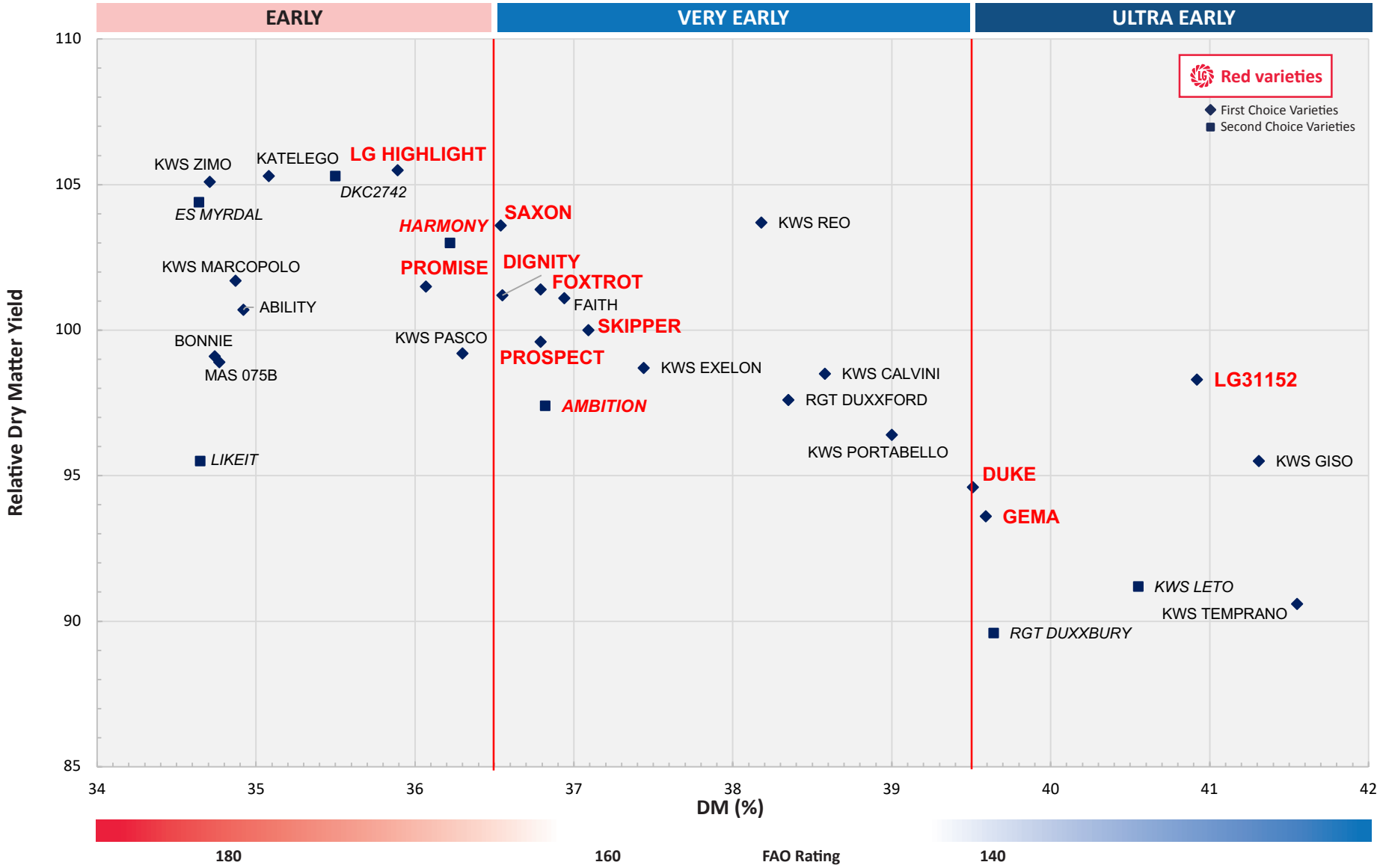
Eyespot rating is derived from NIAB inoculated nursery trials rather than field scores. Fungicide sprays can control the disease for varieties with a low score.

RELATIVE DRY MATTER YIELD v DM%

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2027: Less Favourable (Short Season Varieties)

Maturity Group	FAO Range
VERY EARLY	FAO 130-170
EARLY	FAO 170-200





VARIETIES FOR LESS FAVOURABLE SITES

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RELATIVE STARCH YIELD AND CONTENT

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2027: Less Favourable Sites (Short Season Varieties)

FIRST CHOICE VARIETIES - RANKED BY STARCH YIELD

		MATURITY			AGRONOMIC DATA			
MATURITY GROUP	VARIETY	FAO RATING **	DM% (at harvest)	EARLIER/ LATER TO HARVEST (# Days +/- Prospect)	STARCH YIELD (t/ha)	RELATIVE STARCH YIELD (%)	STARCH (% at harvest)	YEAR LISTED
Mean of the year 4 & 5 varieties			*35.6*	*36.8*	*6.2*	*100*	*34.3*	
ULTRA EARLY	KWS GISO NEW	130	41.3	16	6.7	109	39.2	2026
	DUKE	**150**	**39.5**	**10**	**6.7**	**107**	**39.0**	**2024**
	LG31152	**130**	**40.9**	**14**	**6.6**	**106**	**37.0**	**2025**
	KWS TEMPRANO	130	41.6	17	6.5	105	39.8	2024
	GEMA	**140**	**39.6**	**10**	**6.5**	**105**	**38.4**	**2021**
VERY EARLY	KWS REO	160	38.2	5	7.1	115	38.0	2025
	KWS PORTABELLO	150	39.0	8	6.7	108	38.5	2025
	KWS CALVINI	150	38.6	6	6.6	107	37.4	2019
	KWS EXELON	160	37.4	2	6.6	107	37.2	2021
	SKIPPER	**170**	**37.1**	**1**	**6.6**	**107**	**36.6**	**2023**
	PROSPECT	**170**	**36.8**	**0**	**6.6**	**106**	**36.6**	**2019**
	FOXTROT	**170**	**36.8**	**0**	**6.5**	**106**	**35.8**	**2023**
	FAITH	170	36.9	1	6.4	104	35.3	2023
	RGT DUXXFORD NEW	150	38.4	5	6.4	103	36.3	2026
	SAXON	**170**	**36.5**	**-1**	**6.4**	**103**	**34.2**	**2022**
	DIGNITY	**170**	**36.6**	**-1**	**6.4**	**103**	**35.0**	**2022**
EARLY	KWS ZIMO	190	34.7	-7	6.9	111	36.2	2025
	KATELEGO NEW	180	35.1	-6	6.8	109	35.6	2026
	KWS PASCO	170	36.3	-2	6.4	104	35.9	2022
	LG HIGHLIGHT NEW	**180**	**35.9**	**-3**	**6.4**	**103**	**33.6**	**2026**
	KWS MARCOPOLO NEW	180	34.9	-7	6.3	102	34.6	2026
	BONNIE	190	34.7	-7	6.3	102	35.4	2017
	HARMONY *	**180**	**36.2**	**-2**	**6.3**	**101**	**33.8**	**2025**
	PROMISE	**180**	**36.1**	**-3**	**6.2**	**101**	**34.1**	**2024**
	MAS 075B	190	34.8	-7	6.2	101	35.0	2024
	ABILITY	180	34.9	-7	6.2	100	34.0	2020

NEW New in 2027 ** Limagrain estimation of FAO * Second choice variety # Limagrain estimate of days earlier / later to harvest than Prospect

Starch

Starch yield

Varieties are ranked within maturity groups by total starch yield/ha.

Starch % at harvest

Indicates cob maturity at harvest.

Starch in livestock rations

Starch is a fundamental component of forage maize, providing 'rumen fermentable energy' fuelling the microbial population in the rumen. A proportion of starch, known as bypass starch, is absorbed directly by the animal as glucose. Maize starch is a 'safer' source of energy than feed ingredients such as cereals, as fermentation rates can be slower, reducing the risk of acidosis. Varieties with a high starch content are especially important in forage rations with <50% maize content. Starch from maize balances the rapidly available energy and higher protein levels found in the grass silage.

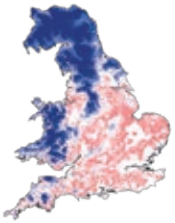
Starch and anaerobic digestion

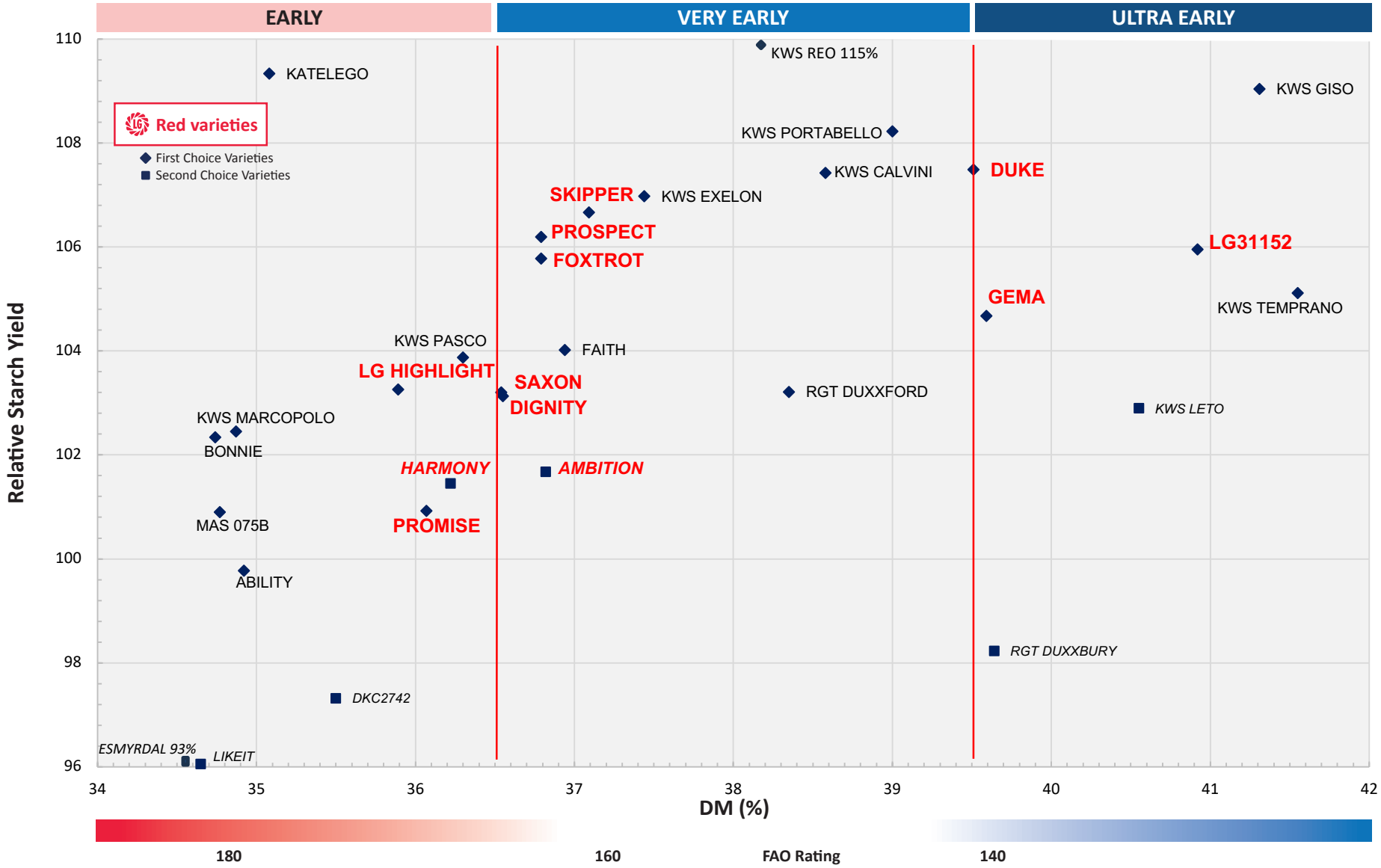
Starch is the major contributor to the total feedstock energy value of maize. Unlike soluble carbohydrates, starch remains stable in the ensiling process, preserving the energy potential of the crop for improved gas production.

RELATIVE STARCH YIELD v DM%

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2027: Less Favourable (Short Season Varieties)

Maturity Group	FAO Range
VERY EARLY	FAO 130-170
EARLY	FAO 170-200





VARIETIES FOR LESS FAVOURABLE SITES

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ME YIELD AND CELL WALL DIGESTIBILITY

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2027: Less Favourable Sites (Short Season Varieties)

VARIETIES FOR LESS FAVOURABLE SITES

FIRST CHOICE VARIETIES - RANKED BY EARLINESS

		MATURITY			ENERGY DATA			DIGESTIBILITY	
MATURITY GROUP	VARIETY	FAO RATING **	DM% (at harvest)	EARLIER/ LATER TO HARVEST (# Days +/- Prospect)	ME YIELD (MJ/ha at harvest)	RELATIVE ME YIELD (%)	ME (MJ/kg DM of fresh plant at harvest)	CELL WALL DIGESTIBILITY ***	YEAR LISTED
Mean of the year 4 & 5 varieties			*35.6*	*36.8*	*209,156*	*100*	*11.6*	*7.5*	
ULTRA EARLY	LG31152	130	40.9	14	205,447	98	11.6	6.4	2025
	DUKE	150	39.5	10	203,099	97	11.9	7.9	2024
	KWS GISO NEW	130	41.3	16	201,087	96	11.7	5.8	2026
	GEMA	140	39.6	10	197,208	94	11.7	6.8	2021
	KWS TEMPRANO	130	41.6	17	192,305	92	11.8	6.7	2024
VERY EARLY	KWS REO	160	38.2	5	218,757	105	11.7	6.7	2025
	SAXON	170	36.5	-1	217,458	104	11.6	7.5	2022
	FOXTROT	170	36.8	0	214,513	103	11.7	7.5	2023
	DIGNITY	170	36.6	-1	213,259	102	11.7	8.0	2022
	FAITH	170	36.9	1	212,321	102	11.6	7.4	2023
	PROSPECT	170	36.8	0	212,046	101	11.8	8.1	2019
	SKIPPER	170	37.1	1	211,465	101	11.7	7.5	2023
	KWS EXELON	160	37.4	2	210,835	101	11.8	7.9	2021
	KWS CALVINI	150	38.6	6	208,858	100	11.8	7.6	2019
	RGT DUXXFORD NEW	150	38.4	5	204,646	98	11.6	7.2	2026
	KWS PORTABELLO	150	39.0	8	204,172	98	11.7	7.1	2025
EARLY	KWS ZIMO	190	34.7	-7	223,580	107	11.8	8.3	2025
	KATELEGO NEW	180	35.1	-6	221,616	106	11.7	7.8	2026
	LG HIGHLIGHT NEW	180	35.9	-3	219,836	105	11.5	7.5	2026
	HARMONY *	180	36.2	-2	212,407	102	11.4	6.3	2025
	PROMISE	180	36.1	-3	212,341	102	11.6	7.7	2024
	MAS 075B	190	34.8	-7	211,415	101	11.8	9.6	2024
	ABILITY	180	34.9	-7	211,361	101	11.6	7.9	2020
	KWS MARCOPOLO NEW	180	34.9	-7	211,337	101	11.5	7.2	2026
	BONNIE	190	34.7	-7	210,386	101	11.8	8.4	2017
	KWS PASCO	170	36.3	-2	209,000	100	11.7	7.2	2022

NEW New in 2027 *** Cell Wall Digestibility (%) minus 50 ** Limagrain estimation of FAO * Second choice variety # Limagrain estimate of days earlier / later to harvest than Prospect

Varieties high in energy density (MJ/kg) usually display both a high starch and cell wall digestible content. In livestock rations, selecting high ME content varieties will improve dry matter intakes and animal performance at feeding. Used as an AD feedstock, efficiency of gas output is increased.

Energy Data

ME yield

Indicates total potential energy available. Varieties are ranked within maturity groups by ME yield.

ME (MJ/kg)

Feeding performance and gas output is improved using varieties with higher energy density. ME content is directly influenced by the starch content and fibre digestibility (CWD) of the plant.

Digestibility Data

Cell wall digestibility (CWD)

CWD measures the digestibility of fibre from the non starch part (leaves and stem) of the maize plant. CWD values have been converted from percentage, to a 1-10 range; each unit representing a 1% increase.

CWD in livestock rations

Improved CWD is beneficial to feed intake, with each 1% increase in CWD increasing dry matter intake by 0.17kg per day. This can result in increased milk yield by 0.25kg per day (Oba and Allen, 1999).

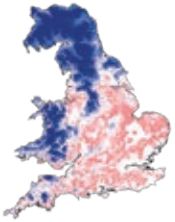
CWD and anaerobic digestion

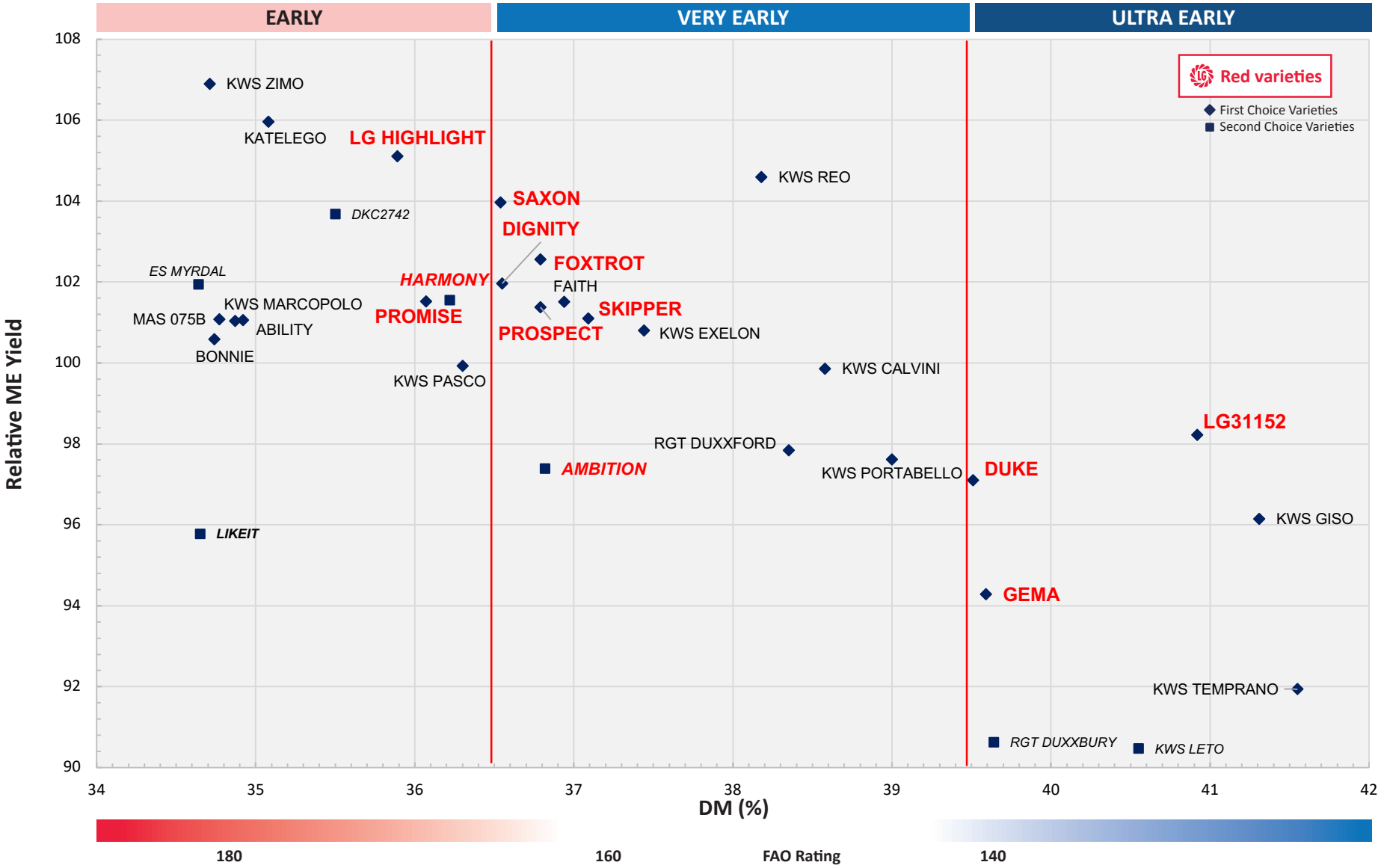
Improved digestibility of fibre increases the energy available for gas production, improving efficiency and reducing digestate output.

RELATIVE ME YIELD V DM%

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2027: Less Favourable (Short Season Varieties)

Maturity Group	FAO Range
VERY EARLY	FAO 130-170
EARLY	FAO 170-200





VARIETIES FOR LESS FAVOURABLE SITES

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THE NEXT GENERATION OF MAIZE VARIETIES

Candidate Varieties for the 2028 BSPB/NIAB List

While it takes a minimum of three years of BSPB/NIAB testing for a variety to be added to the Descriptive List, all potential LG varieties undergo at least two years of evaluation by Limagrain, before being entered into official trials.

At Limagrain, identifying the best hybrids for UK growers is at the heart of our maize breeding programme. Through an extensive nationwide testing network across the major maize-growing regions of the UK, we generate a vast pool of data on yield, maturity, agronomic performance and forage quality. Every trial plot is analysed using onboard NIRS technology, enabling us to assess not only starch content, but also fibre digestibility, lignin levels and NDF, ensuring new hybrids deliver real value for livestock producers, as well as arable growers.

This intensive testing programme gives LG a significant advantage in bringing new genetics to market sooner. As a result, commercial seed of our most promising hybrids can be available up to a year before they appear on the official Descriptive List, giving growers earlier access to the latest advances in yield, maturity, forage quality and overall crop performance.

Harvesting of LG Maize Trials

New varieties from LG

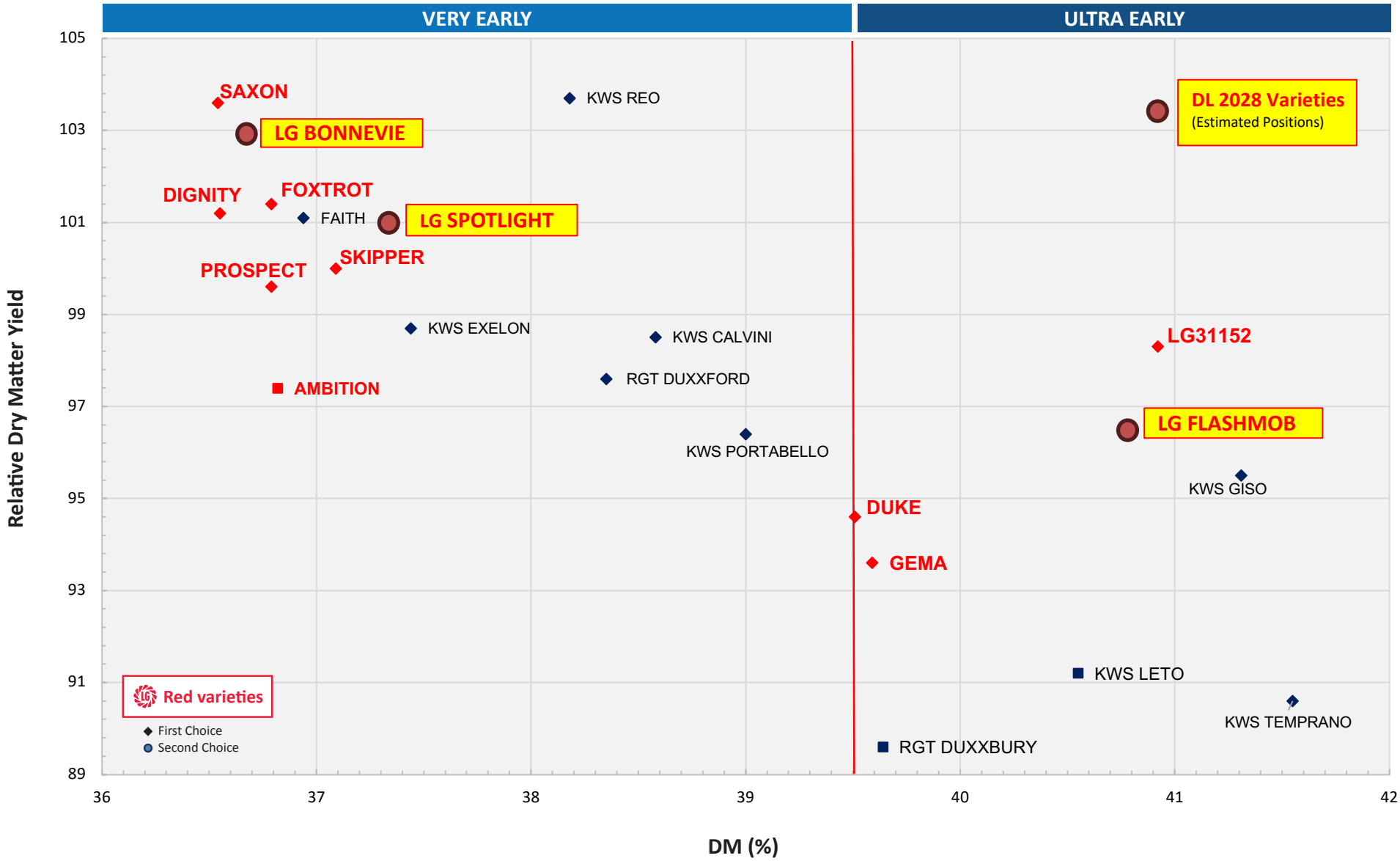
LG Bonnevie	Trait	Score
• A very early-maturing variety with a high yield potential	Early Vigour	7.6
• Excellent early vigour and very good standing power	Standing Power	7.9
• Exceptional cell wall digestibility with good starch, giving outstanding feed quality	ME Content	11.7

LG Flashmob	Trait	Score
• Ultra early, with a very high yield for its maturity	Early Vigour	7.7
• Very good early vigour and high Eyespot tolerance	Standing Power	6.9
• Excellent starch content, with very high ME levels	ME Content	12.0

LG Spotlight	Trait	Score
• Very early-maturing with a high yield potential	Early Vigour	7.5
• Low Fusarium susceptibility and high Eyespot tolerance • Good early vigour, with excellent standing ability	Standing Power	6.8
• High starch content and improved cell wall digestibility	ME Content	11.6

RELATIVE DRY MATTER YIELD V DM% – NEW VARIETIES

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2027: Less Favourable (Short Season Varieties)



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RELATIVE DRY MATTER YIELD AND AGRONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2027: Favourable Sites (Long Season Varieties)

VARIETIES FOR FAVOURABLE SITES

FIRST CHOICE VARIETIES – RANKED BY EARLINESS

		MATURITY			YIELD DATA		AGRONOMIC DATA					
MATURITY GROUP	VARIETY	FAO RATING **	DM% (at harvest)	EARLIER/ LATER TO HARVEST (# Days +/- Prospect)	DM YIELD (t/ha)	RELATIVE DM YIELD (%)	EARLY VIGOUR (9=good, 1=poor)	STANDING (at harvest 9=good, 1=poor)	LODGING (%)	LEAF SENESCENCE (at harvest 9=good, 1=poor)	EYESPOT RATING (9=good, 1=poor)	YEAR LISTED
Mean of the 4 & 5 year varieties			*35.6*	*36.8*	*18.0*	*100*	*7.0*	*7.8*	*0.9*	*6.4*	*5.7*	
VERY EARLY	**DIGNITY**	**170**	**36.6**	**-1**	**18.3**	**101**	**7.2**	**7.9**	**0.8**	**6.2**	**1.9**	**2022**
VERY EARLY	**SAXON**	**170**	**36.5**	**-1**	**18.7**	**104**	**7.5**	**7.6**	**1.4**	**6.2**	**2.4**	**2022**
EARLY	KWS PASCO	170	36.3	-2	17.9	99	6.8	7.8	0.9	6.2	8.1	2022
EARLY	**HARMONY ***	**180**	**36.2**	**-2**	**18.6**	**103**	**7.2**	**7.1**	**2.3**	**6.7**	**5.3**	**2025**
EARLY	**PROMISE**	**180**	**36.1**	**-3**	**18.3**	**102**	**7.0**	**7.7**	**1.1**	**6.3**	**1.9**	**2024**
EARLY	**LG HIGHLIGHT** NEW	**180**	**35.9**	**-3**	**19.0**	**106**	**6.7**	**8.2**	**0.3**	**7.0**	**6.9**	**2026**
EARLY	KATELEGO NEW	180	35.1	-6	19.0	105	7.0	7.7	1.1	6.6	6.3	2026
EARLY	ABILITY	180	34.9	-7	18.2	101	7.3	8.1	0.4	6.8	5.8	2020
EARLY	KWS MARCOPOLO NEW	180	34.9	-7	18.4	102	6.8	6.9	2.6	6.5	6.3	2026
EARLY	MAS 075B	190	34.8	-7	17.9	99	7.0	7.6	1.4	6.5	6.2	2024
EARLY	BONNIE	190	34.7	-7	17.9	99	7.3	8.0	0.6	7.2	5.9	2017
EARLY	KWS ZIMO	190	34.7	-7	19.0	105	7.1	7.9	0.8	6.7	6.1	2025
EARLY	**CONCLUSION**	**190**	**34.4**	**-8**	**18.1**	**101**	**7.3**	**8.0**	**0.6**	**7.0**	**3.9**	**2020**
EARLY	STARLORD	190	34.4	-8	18.0	100	6.8	7.4	1.7	6.4	7.8	2024
EARLY	**RESOLUTE**	**190**	**34.1**	**-9**	**18.1**	**101**	**7.2**	**7.8**	**1.0**	**7.0**	**2.4**	**2020**
EARLY	KWS ANASTASIO	190	34.1	-10	18.5	102	7.2	7.8	0.9	7.0	7.6	2022
EARLY	DKC2644 NEW	190	34.0	-10	19.4	108	6.4	7.6	1.4	7.0	6.3	2026
EARLY	AGROLINO	200	33.8	-11	18.5	103	6.8	7.7	1.2	6.6	6.4	2025
EARLY	**LG31205**	**190**	**33.7**	**-11**	**18.1**	**100**	**6.7**	**7.6**	**1.4**	**7.0**	**8.2**	**2018**
EARLY	**LG31206**	**190**	**33.7**	**-11**	**18.8**	**104**	**7.1**	**7.4**	**1.8**	**7.2**	**4.0**	**2025**
EARLY	JUSTICE	190	33.5	-11	18.5	102	6.9	7.9	0.7	6.6	8.6	2024
LATE	PAPAGENO	190	33.4	-12	18.5	103	6.8	7.5	1.5	7.1	7.0	2024
LATE	CLIFFORD	200	33.2	-13	18.1	101	7.1	8.1	0.5	7.0	7.4	2025
LATE	SU ADDITION	200	33.1	-13	19.0	105	7.0	7.9	0.9	7.1	4.5	2025
LATE	**LG31207 ***	**200**	**33.1**	**-13**	**18.7**	**104**	**7.3**	**7.9**	**0.8**	**6.9**	**8.7**	**2023**
LATE	WESLEY NEW	210	32.6	-15	19.2	106	7.0	7.7	1.1	7.2	6.5	2026
LATE	JAKLEEN	220	31.4	-19	19.5	108	6.8	7.4	1.8	7.2	6.2	2024
LATE	KWS PLUVIO NEW	220	31.3	-19	19.4	108	7.2	7.7	1.1	7.4	6.0	2026
LATE	REVELATION NEW	220	31.2	-20	18.9	105	7.1	7.6	1.3	7.6	5.2	2026
LATE	KWS NORENTO NEW	220	30.9	-21	19.1	106	7.0	7.8	1.0	7.1	6.8	2026
LATE	ES PALLADIUM	230	30.4	-22	19.3	107	7.2	7.4	1.7	7.1	5.1	2023

NEW New in 2027 ** Limagrain estimation of FAO * Second choice variety # Limagrain estimate of days earlier / later to harvest than Prospect

Maturity

Choose varieties with an appropriate maturity. The lower the FAO rating, the earlier the variety will mature.

Yield Data

Dry matter yield

Earlier varieties ensure crop maturity, but may have lower yields.

Agronomic Data

Early vigour

Strong, vigorous plants quickly establish roots and leaf canopy.

Standing

Ability to remain upright at harvest.

Lodging

% Plants leaning > 30° at harvest.

Leaf senescence

A higher score means plants remain green and healthy up to harvest. Lower scoring varieties may suffer from diseases like Fusarium.

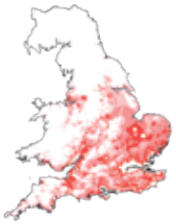
Eyespot rating

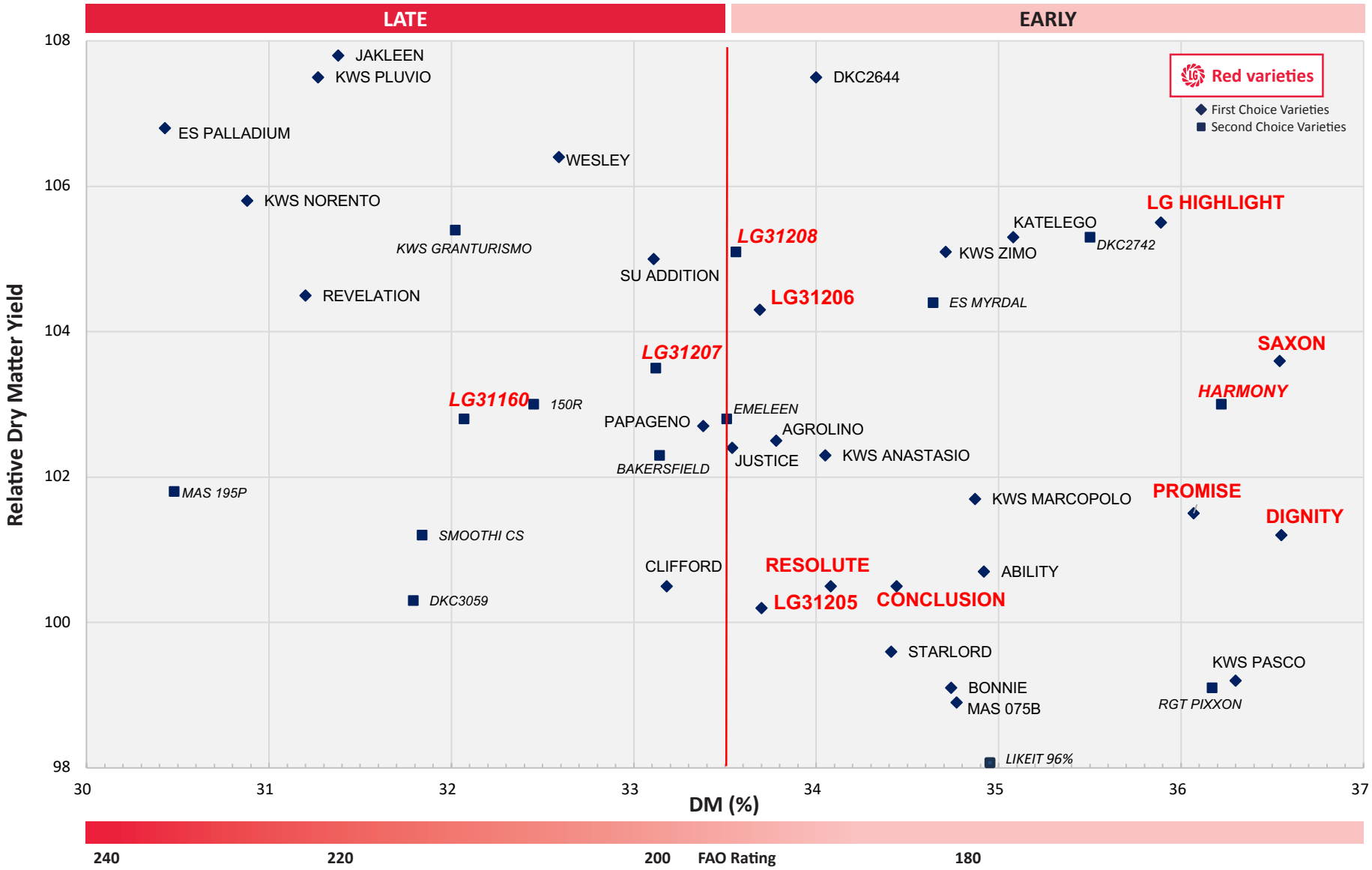
Eyespot rating is derived from NIAB inoculated nursery trials rather than field scores. Fungicide sprays can control the disease for varieties with a low score.

RELATIVE DRY MATTER YIELD v DM%

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2027: Favourable Sites (Long Season Varieties)

Maturity Group	FAO Range
EARLY	FAO 170-200
LATE	FAO 200-220
VERY LATE	FAO 220-250





VARIETIES FOR FAVOURABLE SITES

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RELATIVE STARCH YIELD AND CONTENT

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2027: Favourable Sites (Long Season Varieties)

VARIETIES FOR FAVOURABLE SITES

FIRST CHOICE VARIETIES – RANKED BY STARCH YIELD

		MATURITY			STARCH DATA			
MATURITY GROUP	VARIETY	FAO RATING **	DM% (at harvest)	EARLIER/ LATER TO HARVEST (# Days +/- Prospect)	STARCH YIELD (t/ha)	RELATIVE STARCH YIELD (%)	STARCH (% at harvest)	YEAR LISTED
Mean of the 4 & 5 year varieties			*35.6*	*36.8*	*6.2*	*100*	*34.3*	
VERY EARLY	**SAXON**	**170**	**36.5**	**-1**	**6.4**	**103**	**34.2**	**2022**
VERY EARLY	**DIGNITY**	**170**	**36.6**	**-1**	**6.4**	**103**	**35.0**	**2022**
EARLY	KWS ZIMO	190	34.7	-7	6.9	111	36.2	2025
EARLY	KATELEGO NEW	180	35.1	-6	6.8	109	35.6	2026
EARLY	AGROLINO	200	33.8	-11	6.4	104	34.8	2025
EARLY	KWS PASCO	170	36.3	-2	6.4	104	35.9	2022
EARLY	**LG HIGHLIGHT NEW**	**180**	**35.9**	**-3**	**6.4**	**103**	**33.6**	**2026**
EARLY	KWS MARCOPOLO NEW	180	34.9	-7	6.3	102	34.6	2026
EARLY	**CONCLUSION**	**190**	**34.4**	**-8**	**6.3**	**102**	**35.0**	**2020**
EARLY	BONNIE	190	34.7	-7	6.3	102	35.4	2017
EARLY	**HARMONY ***	**180**	**36.2**	**-2**	**6.3**	**101**	**33.8**	**2025**
EARLY	KWS ANASTASIO	190	34.1	-10	6.3	101	33.9	2022
EARLY	**PROMISE**	**180**	**36.1**	**-3**	**6.2**	**101**	**34.1**	**2024**
EARLY	DKC2644 NEW	190	34.0	-10	6.2	101	32.2	2026
EARLY	MAS 075B	190	34.8	-7	6.2	101	35.0	2024
EARLY	STARLORD	190	34.4	-8	6.2	100	34.5	2024
EARLY	**RESOLUTE**	**190**	**34.1**	**-9**	**6.2**	**100**	**34.2**	**2020**
EARLY	ABILITY	180	34.9	-7	6.2	100	34.0	2020
EARLY	**LG31206**	**190**	**33.7**	**-11**	**6.1**	**99**	**32.6**	**2025**
EARLY	JUSTICE	190	33.5	-11	6.0	97	32.5	2024
EARLY	**LG31205**	**190**	**33.7**	**-11**	**6.0**	**97**	**33.2**	**2018**
LATE	PAPAGENO	190	33.4	-12	6.3	101	33.7	2024
LATE	KWS PLUVIO NEW	220	31.3	-19	6.1	99	31.5	2026
LATE	WESLEY NEW	210	32.6	-15	6.0	97	31.3	2026
LATE	CLIFFORD	200	33.2	-13	6.0	96	32.9	2025
LATE	SU ADDITION	200	33.1	-13	6.0	96	31.4	2025
LATE	**LG31207 ***	**200**	**33.1**	**-13**	**5.8**	**94**	**31.1**	**2023**
LATE	JAKLEEN	220	31.4	-19	5.8	93	29.7	2024
LATE	REVELATION NEW	220	31.2	-20	5.8	93	30.6	2026
LATE	KWS NORENTO NEW	220	30.9	-21	5.6	91	29.6	2026
LATE	ES PALLADIUM	230	30.4	-22	5.4	88	28.3	2023

NEW New in 2027 ** Limagrain estimation of FAO * Second choice variety # Limagrain estimate of days earlier / later to harvest than Prospect

Starch

Starch yield

Varieties are ranked within maturity groups by total starch yield/ha.

Starch % at harvest

Indicates cob maturity at harvest.

Starch in livestock rations

Starch is a fundamental component of forage maize, providing 'rumen fermentable energy', fuelling the microbial population in the rumen. A proportion of starch, known as bypass starch, is absorbed directly by the animal as glucose. Maize starch is a 'safer' source of energy than feed ingredients such as cereals, as fermentation rates can be slower, reducing the risk of acidosis. Varieties with a high starch content are especially important in forage rations with <50% maize content. Starch from maize balances the rapidly available energy and higher protein levels found in the grass silage.

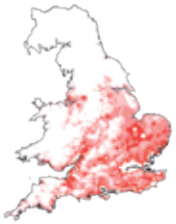
Starch and anaerobic digestion

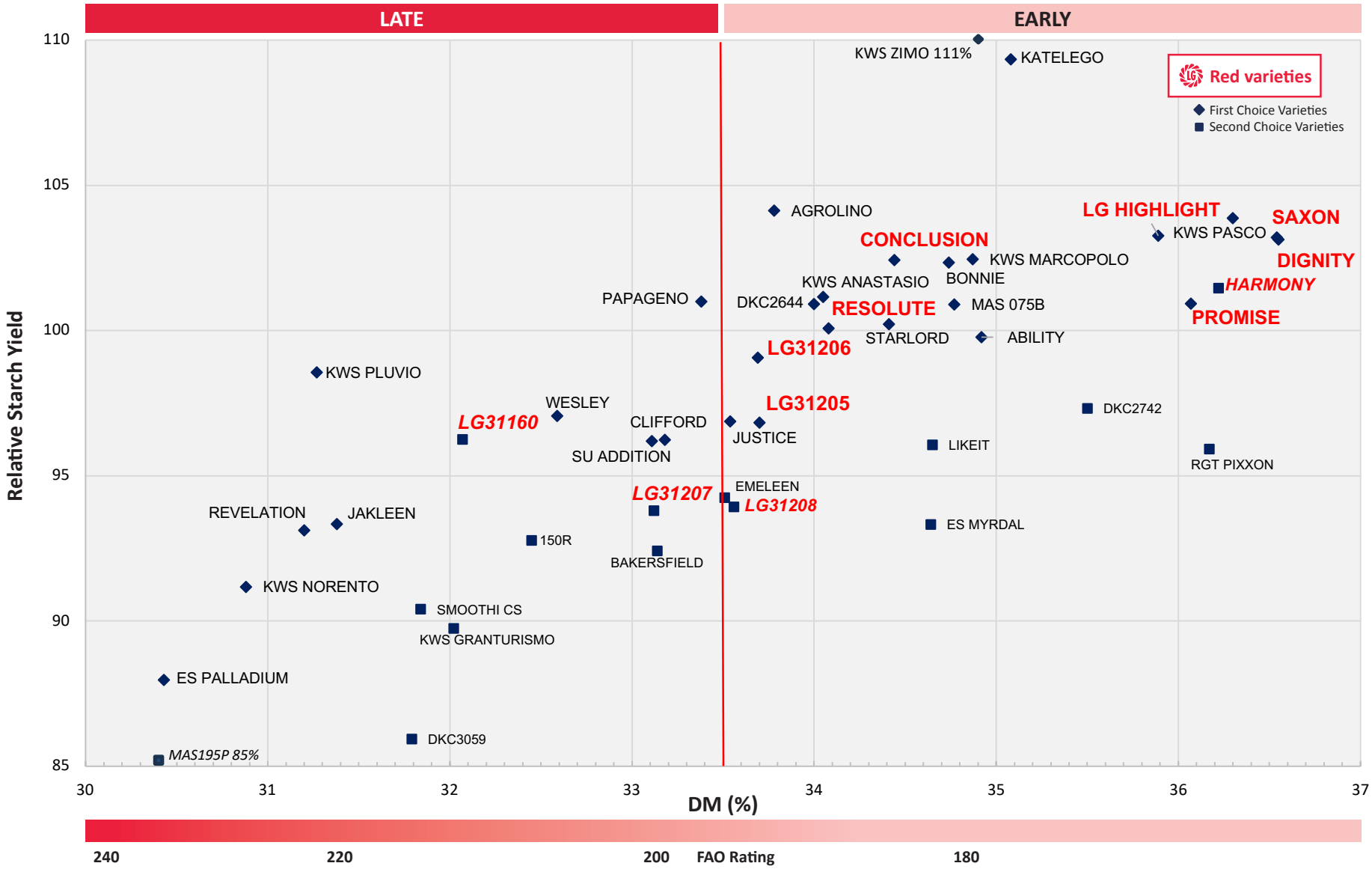
Starch is the major contributor to the total feedstock energy value of maize. Unlike soluble carbohydrates, starch remains stable in the ensiling process, preserving the energy potential of the crop for improved gas production.

RELATIVE STARCH YIELD v DM%

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2027: Favourable Sites (Long Season Varieties)

Maturity Group	FAO Range
EARLY	FAO 170-200
LATE	FAO 200-220
VERY LATE	FAO 220-250





VARIETIES FOR FAVOURABLE SITES

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ME YIELD AND CELL WALL DIGESTIBILITY

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2027: Favourable Sites (Long Season Varieties)

VARIETIES FOR FAVOURABLE SITES

FIRST CHOICE VARIETIES - RANKED BY ME YIELD

		MATURITY			ENERGY DATA			DIGESTIBILITY	
MATURITY GROUP	VARIETY	FAO RATING **	DM% (at harvest)	EARLIER/ LATER TO HARVEST (# Days +/- Prospect)	ME YIELD (MJ/ha at harvest)	RELATIVE ME YIELD %	ME (MJ/kg DM of fresh plant at harvest)	CELL WALL DIGESTIBILITY ***	YEAR LISTED
Mean of the 4 & 5 year varieties			*35.6*	*36.8*	*209,156*	*100*	*11.6*	*7.5*	
VERY EARLY	SAXON	170	36.5	-1	217,458	104	11.6	7.5	2022
	DIGNITY	170	36.6	-1	213,259	102	11.7	8.0	2022
EARLY	KWS ZIMO	190	34.7	-7	223,580	107	11.8	8.3	2025
	KATELEGO NEW	180	35.1	-6	221,616	106	11.7	7.8	2026
	DKC2644 NEW	190	34.0	-10	220,888	106	11.4	6.8	2026
	LG HIGHLIGHT NEW	180	35.9	-3	219,836	105	11.5	7.5	2026
	LG31206	190	33.7	-11	219,005	105	11.6	8.6	2025
	AGROLINO	200	33.8	-11	217,431	104	11.8	8.7	2025
	KWS ANASTASIO	190	34.1	-10	213,896	102	11.6	7.2	2022
	CONCLUSION	190	34.4	-8	213,308	102	11.8	8.7	2020
	HARMONY *	180	36.2	-2	212,407	102	11.4	6.3	2025
	PROMISE	180	36.1	-3	212,341	102	11.6	7.7	2024
	STARLORD	190	34.4	-8	212,154	101	11.8	9.6	2024
	JUSTICE	190	33.5	-11	211,929	101	11.5	7.3	2024
	MAS 075B	190	34.8	-7	211,415	101	11.8	9.6	2024
	ABILITY	180	34.9	-7	211,361	101	11.6	7.9	2020
	KWS MARCOPOLO NEW	180	34.9	-7	211,337	101	11.5	7.2	2026
	BONNIE	190	34.7	-7	210,386	101	11.8	8.4	2017
	RESOLUTE	190	34.1	-9	210,279	101	11.6	7.3	2020
	KWS PASCO	170	36.3	-2	209,000	100	11.7	7.2	2022
	LG31205	190	33.7	-11	208,010	99	11.5	6.9	2018
LATE	JAKLEEN	220	31.4	-19	221,494	106	11.4	7.4	2024
	ES PALLADIUM	230	30.4	-22	220,314	105	11.4	8.3	2023
	KWS PLUVIO NEW	220	31.3	-19	220,209	105	11.4	5.9	2026
	WESLEY NEW	210	32.6	-15	218,746	105	11.4	7.1	2026
	REVELATION NEW	220	31.2	-20	218,585	105	11.6	8.9	2026
	SU ADDITION	200	33.1	-13	216,655	104	11.4	7.2	2025
	PAPAGENO	190	33.4	-12	216,301	103	11.7	8.0	2024
	KWS NORENTO NEW	220	30.9	-21	214,894	103	11.3	6.5	2026
	LG31207*	200	33.1	-13	212,521	102	11.4	6.9	2023
	CLIFFORD	200	33.2	-13	207,679	99	11.5	7.0	2025

NEW New in 2027 *** Cell Wall Digestibility (%) minus 50 ** Limagrain estimation of FAO * Second choice variety # Limagrain estimate of days earlier / later to harvest than Prospect

Energy Data

ME yield

Indicates total potential energy available. Varieties are ranked within maturity groups by ME yield.

ME (MJ/kg)

Feeding performance and gas output is improved using varieties with higher energy density. ME content is directly influenced by the starch content and fibre digestibility (CWD) of the plant.

Digestibility Data

Cell wall digestibility (CWD)

CWD measures the digestibility of fibre from the non-starch part (leaves and stem) of the maize plant. CWD values have been converted from percentage, to a 1-10 range; each unit representing a 1% increase.

CWD in livestock rations

Improved CWD is beneficial to feed intake with each 1% increase in CWD increasing dry matter intake by 0.17kg per day. This can result in increased milk yield by 0.25kg per day (Oba and Allen, 1999).

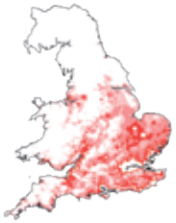
CWD and anaerobic digestion

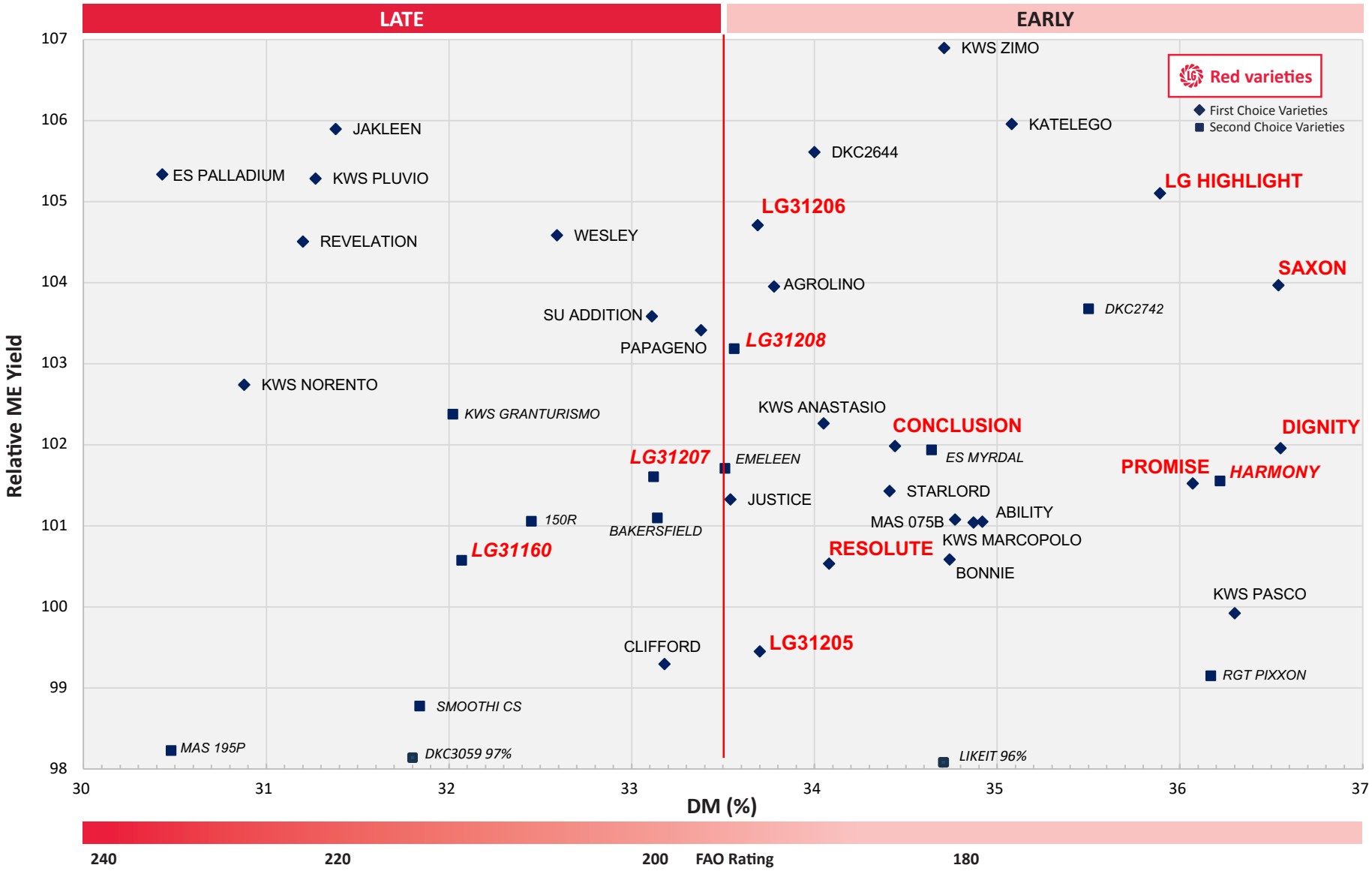
Improved digestibility of fibre increases the energy available for gas production, improving efficiency and reducing digestate output.

RELATIVE ME YIELD v DM%

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2027: Favourable Sites (Long Season Varieties)

Maturity Group	FAO Range
EARLY	FAO 170-200
LATE	FAO 200-220
VERY LATE	FAO 220-250





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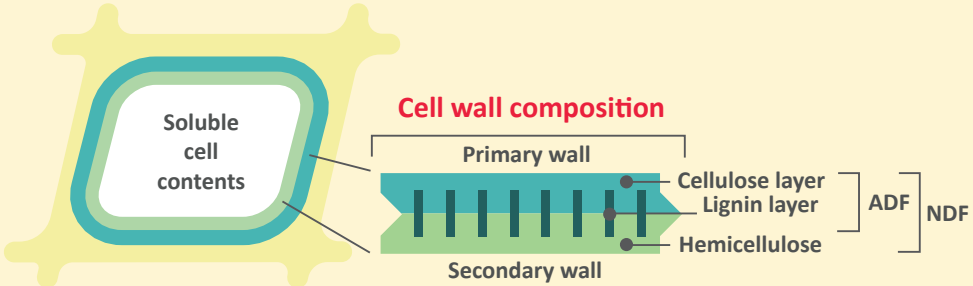
FEEDING QUALITY

The Impact of Fibre Digestibility

Varieties from LG with improved digestibility and high starch yields can strengthen ration performance and are LGAN accredited.

Scan to learn more



Cell Walls Impact Directly on the Digestibility of Maize

Cell wall fibres are composed of cellulose, hemicellulose and lignin, and account for around 40% of total plant dry matter found in the stem, leaves and husk. Lignin is present in relatively small quantities, but gives structural strength to the plant. Lignin is indigestible by the animal and is produced in greater quantities as the plant develops and matures.

Both cellulose and hemicellulose make up the majority of cell wall content, and are potentially completely digestible by animals.

Digestible Fibre (dNDF) - the key to improved performance

Dairy cows need to maximise dry matter intake (DMI) if they are to absorb sufficient energy to maintain high levels of milk production. Recent work has shown that CO_2 and methane emissions can also be reduced by feeding maize with improved fibre digestibility.

AD plants can improve efficiency of gas production by increasing methane content when using maize silage feedstock with improved degradable fibre content, which can also help speed passage through the digester.

To maximise feed quality, select LGAN varieties with both high starch content and cell wall digestibility.

Is Cell Wall Digestibility the same as Fibre Digestibility?

The digestibility of fibre (dNDF) in maize is measured by cell wall digestibility (CWD). CWD measures the extent to which animals can digest maize plant fibre. As lignin content increases, cell wall digestibility declines.

The higher the cell wall digestibility, the better the potential feed value of the plant.

Cell Wall Digestibility and Diet Formulation

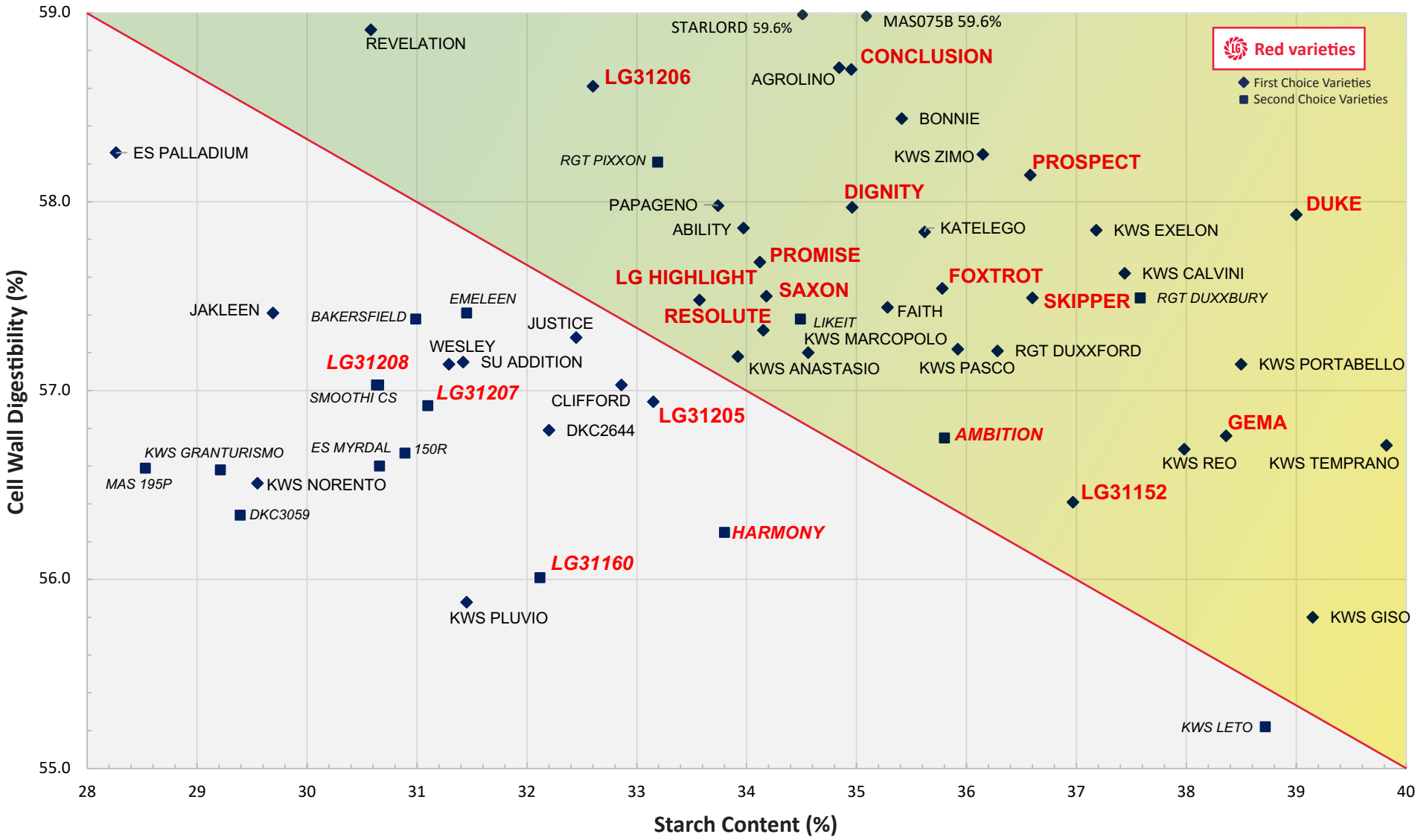
The greater the proportion of maize silage in the diet, the more important the cell wall digestibility becomes.

The lower the digestibility of cell wall, the slower the rate of forage digestion. Varieties with poor cell wall digestibility impact feed intakes with slower digestion and reduced production.

A maize variety with improved cell wall digestibility can be formulated into the diet at a higher level than one with a lower cell wall digestibility, saving money on purchased concentrates.

STARCH CONTENT v CELL WALL DIGESTIBILITY

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2027: All Varieties



VARIETIES FOR FAVOURABLE SITES

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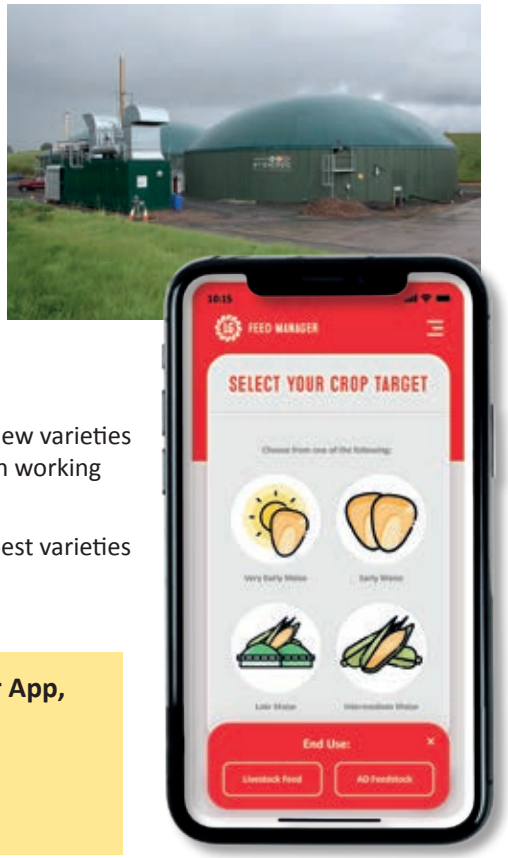
MAIZE VARIETIES FOR ANAEROBIC DIGESTION (AD)

Maize Variety Selection for AD Production

Maize can be successfully grown in most areas of the UK, but it is important to choose varieties suited to the growing conditions of your farm that can achieve a dry matter content of 30-32%.

As large areas of maize are needed to feed an AD plant, a range of varieties with different maturities should be sown. This enables harvesting before wet weather sets in and helps to avoid soil structure damage.



Recommended LG Maize Varieties

The extensive UK-based LG research programme has tested potential new varieties against current commercial ones at trial sites across the country and on working AD plants, for over five years.

LG has used a vigorous selection process to ensure that only the very best varieties are available to growers.

Check out the Feed Manager section of our Maize Manager App, available from the Apple and Google Play stores.

Download on the App Store

ANDROID APP ON Google play

Independent Data on High-Yielding Varieties Suitable for Very Favourable Sites

Some varieties used for AD do not appear on this list, but have been thoroughly tested in LG trials. Performance for these varieties can be found in the LG AD trials charts, on pages 24 & 25.

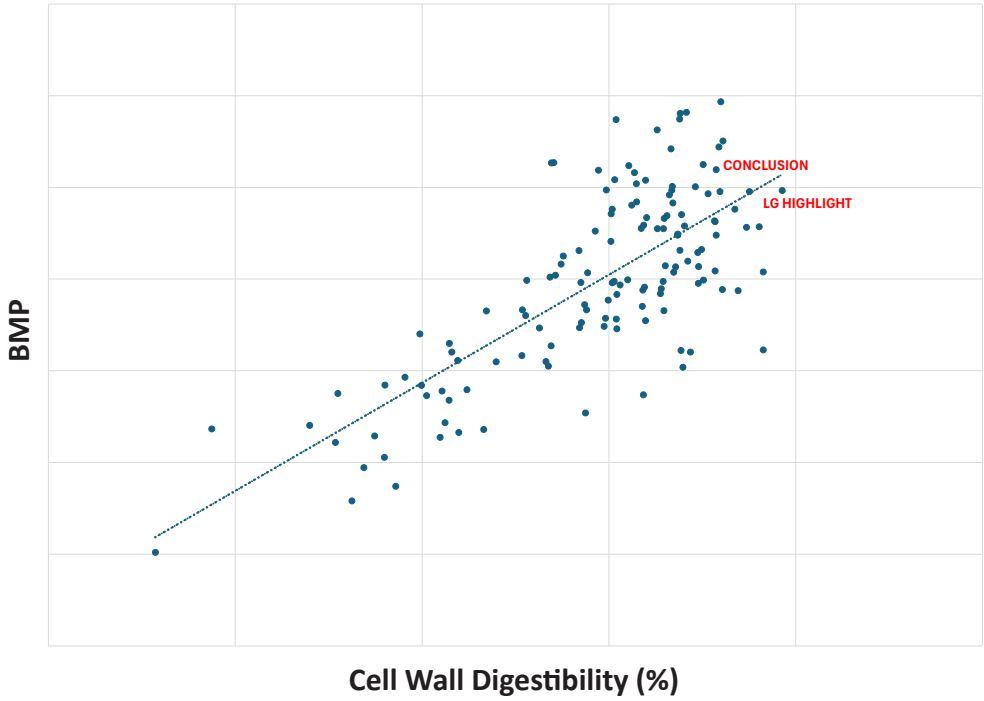
Recommended for AD

MATURITY	VARIETY	DESCRIPTION	FAO
EARLY	LG Highlight NEW	Early with very high yield and quality	170
	Saxon	Impressive yield and quality	170
	Foxtrot	Early with good quality	170
	Harmony	Early with superb yield	180
	Promise	Vigorous and high-yielding	180
	Conclusion	Vigorous with high energy yield	190
	Resolute	Very high-yielding with high energy values	190
	LG31.205	High ME yield from an early harvest	190
LATE	LG31.208	High ME yield with excellent quality	190
	LG31.206	Super quality from mainstream harvest	200
	LG31.207	Very high-yielding with excellent vigour	200
	LG31.160 NEW	Flexible high yield - can also be harvested for grain	210
	LG32.257 NEW	High-yielding and adapted to lighter land	220

MAIZE VARIETIES FOR ANAEROBIC DIGESTION (AD)

Improving Methane Yield

Relationship between CWD and methane production



Breeding to Promote Methane Yield

While achieving high yields of 30-32% dry matter silage has traditionally been the main objective for AD growers, forage quality is increasingly recognised as a key driver of plant performance.

Improving fibre digestibility has been a core objective of Limagrain's maize breeding programme. Research conducted by the LG team, measuring BMP gas output across a wide range of commercial varieties, demonstrates a strong relationship between improved cell wall digestibility and methane production.

The Advantage of Improved Fibre Digestibility

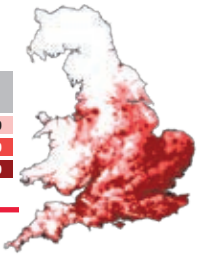
The chart highlights the superior fibre quality of LG genetics, and shows why LG maize varieties are among the leading choices for maximising biogas output and AD efficiency.

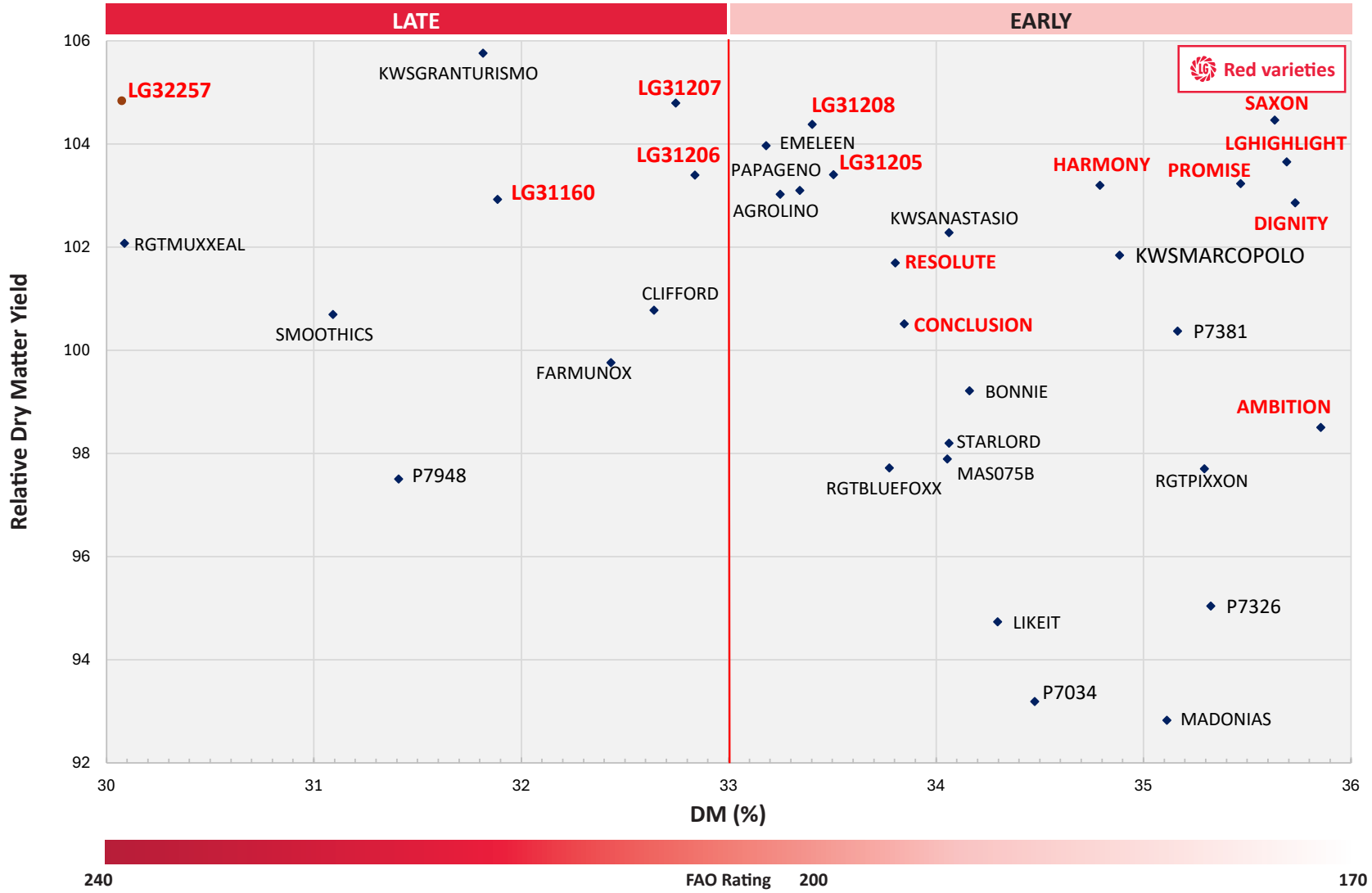
As AD operators focus on improving gas yield per hectare and per tonne of dry matter, choosing varieties with highly digestible fibre levels for maize feedstock is proving advantageous.

RELATIVE DRY MATTER YIELD v DM%

LG Variety Trials for Anaerobic Digestion (2021-2025)

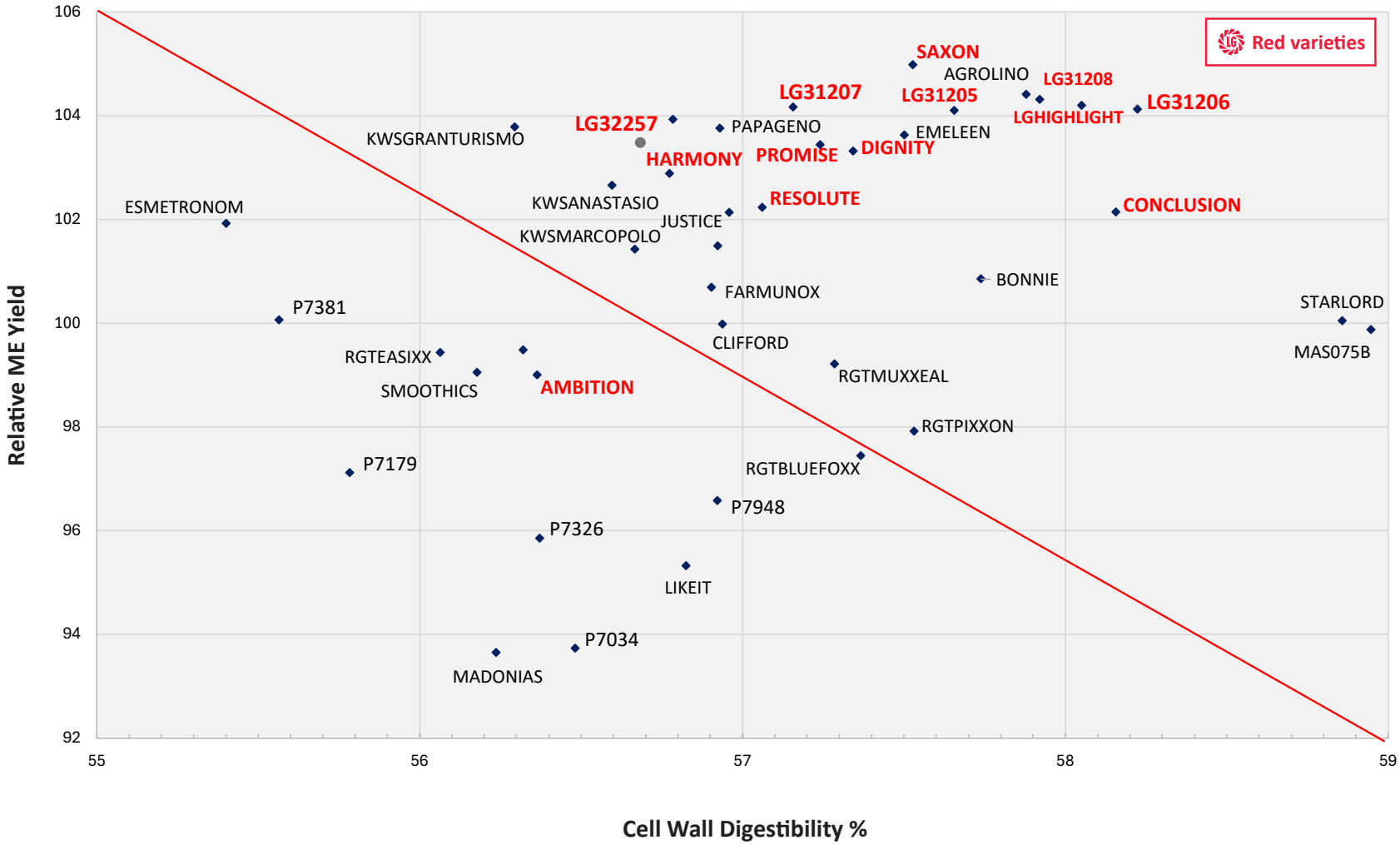
Maturity Group	FAO Range
EARLY	FAO 170-200
LATE	FAO 200-220
VERY LATE	FAO 220-250





CELL WALL DIGESTIBILITY % v ME YIELD

LG Variety Trials for Anaerobic Digestion (2021-2025)



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MAIZE FOR CRIMPING OR GRAIN

Mature maize crops can be combined for their grain (kernels), from which crimped maize or dried grain can be produced.

Dried Grain Maize

Use: Feed compounders, or in the bird and pet food industry. This specialised market demands a high quality grain sample with kernels of an attractive yellow colour.

Yield: Grain yield 7-10 t/ha @ 15% MC

Recommended varieties: LG31.160, LG30.179, Conclusion and Pinnacle

Crimped Maize

Use: Moist crimped grain maize of 25-35% MC for cattle and pig feed. For this larger market, maize grains are treated with a preservative to create a moist and digestible high energy feedstuff, with a metabolisable energy content of 14-14.5 MJ/kg DM.

Yield: Crimped yield 10-12 t/ha @ 65% DM.

Recommended varieties: LG31.160, LG Highlight, LG30.179, Conclusion, Pinnacle and Promise.

Variety Selection for Grain and Crimping Use

To harvest maize for grain, the crop needs to reach a moisture content of 25-35% (DM of 65-75%) before being combined.

This means the crop has to be left longer in the field to dry down.

Important variety selection criteria:

• Disease resistance • Grain dry down • Standing power • High grain yield

Good cob cover will also reduce susceptibility to Fusarium infection.

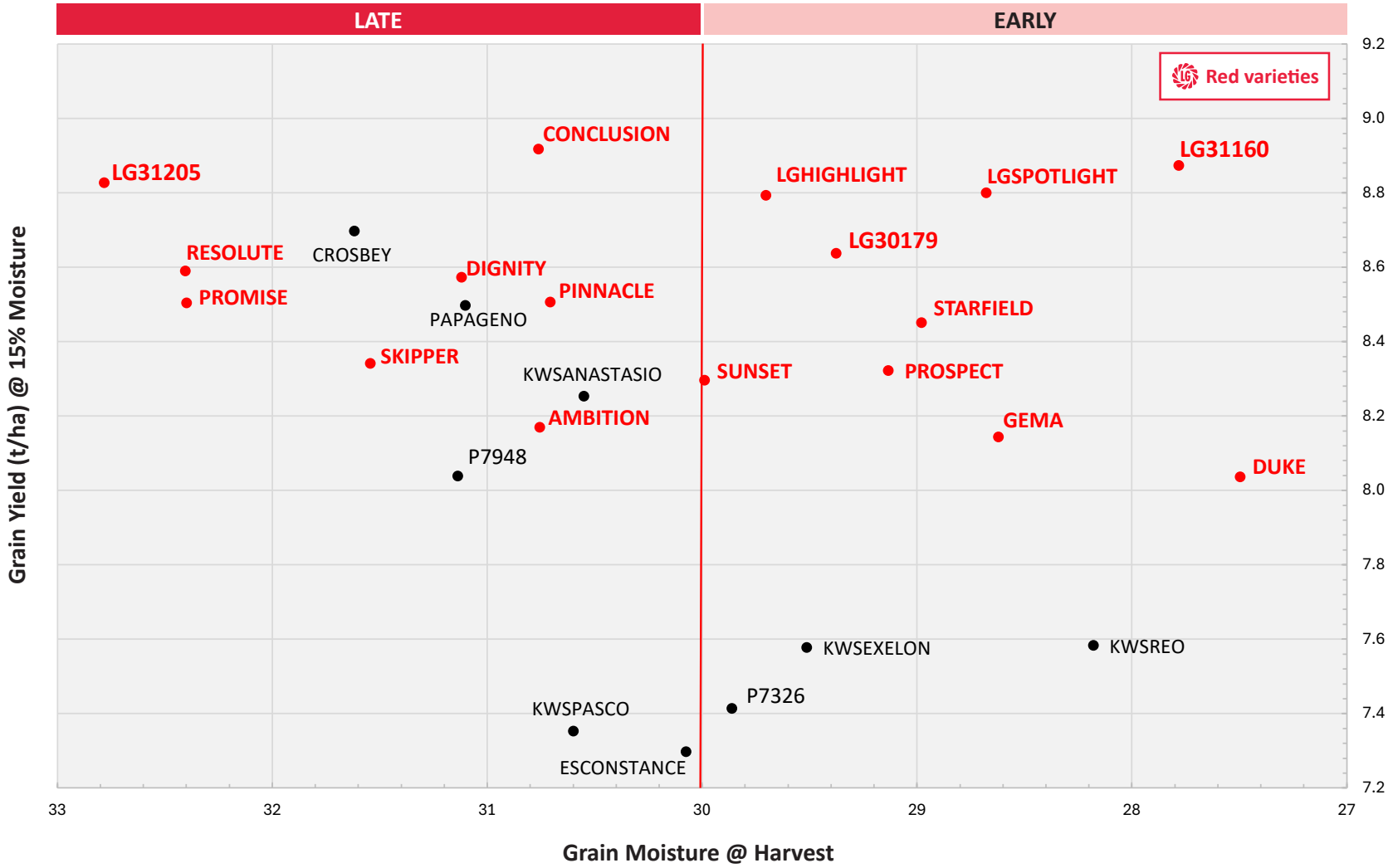
LG Grain Trials

Currently there is no official trials data available in the UK for varieties for grain or crimping use. LG has established a network of trials within recognised grain maize growing areas, to assess the potential of LG varieties.

This involves establishing the trial within a commercial grain crop and harvesting at the same time using a specialist trials grain harvester. Varieties are assessed for yield and many other criteria, including disease, grain colour, lodging and moisture content. Results are adjusted to 15% moisture content.

GRAIN VARIETY TRIALS

LG Trials (2021-2025) Yield Adjusted to 15% Moisture Content



MAIZE FOR CRIMPING OR GRAIN

Limagrain

MAIZE FOR GRAIN

An Attractive Option

Growing maize for grain has become an increasingly attractive option for UK arable farmers, offering a profitable spring-sown cash crop that fits well within cereal-based rotations. In addition to providing crop diversification, maize can help reduce blackgrass pressure by allowing stale seedbed techniques and effective control of emerged weeds before drilling. The later planting window also creates opportunities to establish catch crops or cover crops following autumn-harvested cereals, supporting both soil health and rotational flexibility.

The feasibility of grain maize production in the UK has improved significantly in recent years through advances in plant breeding and a warming climate, particularly across southern and eastern regions. Provided adequate soil moisture and good weed control are achieved, maize can perform successfully under full tillage, min-till or strip-till systems, with typical seed rates ranging from 85,000 to 95,000 seeds/ha. Strong demand from the feed, starch and bioethanol sectors, combined with attractive gross margin potential, continues to drive grower interest in the crop.

Facts and Figures

Typical grain yield	7-10 t/ha
Typical grain moisture	25-35%
Typical drying cost (target moisture 15%)	£15-20/t
Typical price/ t @ 15%	£180-200/t
Markets	Feed compounders, pet feeds, game feed…

Variety Selection

This remains critical to maximising profitability. While high yield is important, achieving low grain moisture at harvest is essential to minimise drying costs, which can quickly erode margins.

Modern grain maize hybrids such as LG31.160 combine high yield potential with excellent dry-down characteristics, helping growers achieve earlier harvests and reducing both drying expenditure and the risk of delaying establishment of the following cereal crop.

As a result, for farms with suitable soils and access to grain handling facilities, grain maize represents an increasingly feasible and attractive long-term cropping option.

Key Traits

- Rapid grain dry down
- Good standing ability to harvest
- Good grain colour
- Good disease resistance - especially to Fusarium
- Good cob cover - a loose but full sheath cover, to reduce disease

Harvesting of LG31.160

Harvesting of LG31.160

VARIETIES FOR GROWING UNDER PLASTIC COVER

Using Plastic Cover

The 'under plastic' system was developed in Ireland to enable farmers in more marginal climates to grow maize successfully. In the UK, it can be of benefit in advancing crop maturity in very marginal areas, such as Scotland and areas of high altitude and rainfall, in England and Wales.

The plastic cover acts like a greenhouse and warms the seedbed to 8˚C sooner, thereby encouraging seeds to germinate and become established earlier in the spring. It increases the total heat accumulation of the growing crop, bringing forward maturity. This facilitates either an earlier harvest or the growing of a later variety with a higher yield potential.

Agronomy

Plastic cover adds an extra growing cost of around £250/hectare. This is partially offset by the use of a lower seed rate of 100,000 seeds/ha (40,000 seeds/acre). Recently there has been a move to using more biodegradable plastic in single rows, with an increase in costs.

Good weed control prior to sowing is vital. A pre-emergence herbicide spray is applied at the time of sowing but after this, options are limited due to the plastic cover.

Variety Selection for Under Plastic

The only source of independent data on how maize varieties perform under plastic is DAFM (Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine) in Ireland. The LG varieties **Ambition**, **Saxon**, **LG31.207** and **LG31.210** perform exceptionally well under the plastic covered system.

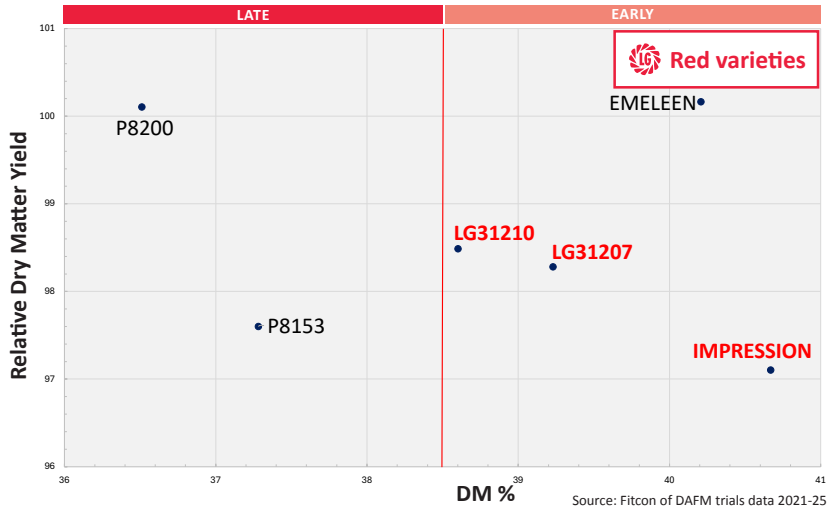
DAFM Recommended Covered Varieties 2026

SUITABLE FOR GROWING UNDER PLASTIC COVER

		MATURITY		YIELD DATA		STARCH DATA			ENERGY DATA		
MATURITY GROUP	VARIETY	FAO RATING	DM% (at harvest)	DM YIELD (t/ha)	REL DM YIELD (%)	STARCH YIELD (t/ha)	REL STARCH YIELD %	STARCH (% at harvest)	ME YIELD (MJ/ha at harvest)	REL ME YIELD %	ME (MJ/kg DM of fresh)
VERY EARLY	AMBITION**		44.3	17.7	82	5.3	94	29.6	214,419	83	12.1
	RESOLUTE**		43.5	18.9	87	5.3	96	28.2	227,845	88	12.0
	SAXON**		42.9	19.2	89	5.4	98	28.3	231,405	89	12.0
	LG HIGHLIGHT **		42.0	20.0	92	5.0	90	25.2	246,523	95	12.3
EARLY	IMPRESSION*		40.7	21.0	97	5.2	93	24.6	252,705	98	12.0
	EMELEEN		40.2	21.7	100	5.6	100	25.8	263,048	102	12.1
	LG31207		39.2	21.3	98	5.6	101	26.5	255,082	98	12.0
	LG31206**		38.8	19.6	90	5.0	90	25.7	235,021	91	12.0
	LG32257**		38.8	20.0	93	5.5	98	27.3	239,669	92	12.0
	LG31210*		38.6	21.3	98	5.3	95	24.9	258,563	100	12.1
LATE	P8200		36.5	21.7	100	5.3	96	24.6	252,678	98	11.7

*Currently in DAFM trials but with limited data (not fully recommended) **Not listed but previously tested by DAFM

DAFM Plastic Covered Trials Relative Dry Matter Yield v DM%



Source: Fitcon of DAFM trials data 2021-25

ESTABLISHMENT AND BIRD CONTROL

Seed Treatments and Sowing Advice

Damage Caused by Birds

Maize is most vulnerable to bird damage during early emergence, up to 3-4 leaf phase. Rooks and other corvids can pick out newly sown seeds or small seedlings, working down the row and causing substantial losses.

Bird Control

The key to avoiding this issue is to ensure that no grains are left lying on the surface and that the seed is drilled to the correct depth and well covered, so as not to attract attention.

Avoid drilling an isolated crop of maize in a high risk area, such as near woodland or a rookery. It may be possible to drill seed to a deeper depth of 7-10cm to deter rooks from digging up the seed, however sowing at this depth can be problematic for the seed to germinate successfully, especially in heavier soils.

Always check that soil temperature has reached 10°C at drilling depth for at least four consecutive days before drilling, and check that the medium term weather forecast will remain warm.

KORIT® PRO

The unique formulation of Korit® PRO provides protection from birds and soil-borne, damping off diseases. It also contains micronutrients to aid early plant development, assisting the plant to grow in this crucial stage.

Korit® PRO provides protection:

- Bird repellent against crows, rooks and pheasants
- Fungicide protection against damping off diseases, including Pythium and Fusarium

Korit® PRO improves:

- Rooting power, developing healthy well-anchored plants
- Chlorophyll formation and photosynthetic action (with included manganese)
- Protein formation - particularly beneficial if soils become cold or wet (with included zinc)

Korit® PRO includes Plant Growth Promoting Rhizobacteria (PGPR)

PGPR colonises the root zone and stimulates root hair development. Through a symbiotic relationship, the bacteria increases the availability of soil nutrients, phosphorus, nitrogen and other trace elements to the plant. Plants treated with PGPR tend to amass more growth in the early pre-flowering stages, leading to a better developed adult plant.

Successful Establishment is Reliant upon Four Main Factors:

- Sufficient moisture being available; ensure a fine seedbed with soil in contact to seed
- A warm and rising soil temperature for four or more days, of a minimum 10˚C at drilling depth
- Drilling to an appropriate soil depth of 5-8cm and not too deep in heavy soils
- Drilling into well-aerated soils, maize will not thrive in compacted soils without oxygen

ESTABLISHMENT AND INSECT CONTROL

Insect Damage

Wireworms

Commonly found when maize is sown for the first three years after ploughing grass. The larvae are yellow, legless and up to 35mm long. They feed on the grass root debris and the new maize plants up to 5-6 leaf stage. Damage is seen in patches of the field with affected plants struggling or dying.

Frit Fly

Causes damage up to the 4 leaf stage. Common after an initially warm period, encouraging egg laying by the adult fly. Larvae are pale yellow, 4mm long, and eat across the leaf veins. Plants either die or become stunted with twisted leaves.

Korit® FORCE

The insecticide seed treatment Korit® FORCE can help limit damage, but will not provide 100% control.

Getting maize crops established in good conditions and up and away quickly, are the foundations of a successful crop.

European Corn Borer

Early larvae feed on leaves, leaving shot-holes, while later stages bore into stems and cobs. Key signs include stem-boring, entry holes with frass, and 'dead hearts' in maize.

Field identification is unreliable because corn borer, fall armyworm and beet armyworm larvae look similar and cause comparable damage. Suspected cases should be confirmed by APHA by sending samples and clear photographs. Corn borer is not notifiable but fall armyworm must be reported immediately.

The larvae overwinter in maize stubble and crop residue, so chopping and incorporating stubble after harvest destroys the majority of them and reduces carry-over into next season.

Insect Control

Cultivating early to temporarily remove the insects' feed source, combined with sowing later into a warm damp seedbed can help.

COMMON DISEASES IN MAIZE

Diseases are most problematic after Flowering and in the lead up to Harvest

Eyespot (Kabatiella Zeae)

Eyespot is particularly prevalent in cooler summers with high humidity, with spores spread by the wind. Infection develops early after flowering and if left unchecked it can have a devastating effect on both crop yield and quality.

Early signs are the appearance of small leaf spots with a yellow halo that can lead to the entire plant dying off before the filling of the cob.

Cultivation & Sprays

Eyespot can be carried over in the stubble, so ensure it is well incorporated into the soil and practice good crop rotation where possible. Timely application of an appropriate fungicide spray can control the disease.

Variety Tolerance

Varieties with good Eyespot tolerance are available. See agronomy data on pages 6 and 14.

Eyespot showing on leaves

Stalk Rot (Fusarium)

This occurs immediately before harvest and is caused by the fungus Fusarium graminearum. Fusarium can lead to the sudden death of the plant and weakening of the stem, causing lodging in the field. This is problematic as it creates difficulties at harvest and can also result in very high dry matter silage that is difficult to conserve in the clamp.

Fusarium impact on cobs

Stalk Rot Control

Fusarium cannot be controlled by using fungicide sprays. The most effective way to avoid this problem is to choose varieties that have good resistance to this disease.

Plants dying off with Fusarium

UNDERSOWING MAIZE AND SFI OPTIONS

Grass Under Maize

Growing a crop of maize typically means sowing in April/May and harvesting in September/October. This can leave a period of up to six months where there's an opportunity to use a second crop to gain extra production.

This second crop can be established alongside the maize by undersowing or if early-maturing varieties are used, there should be sufficient time to sow a crop into the maize stubbles.

Benefits of Undersowing

Good environmental practice

Undersowing maize crops with grass helps prevent soil erosion and the loss of valuable nutrients over the winter months. Damage to soil structure by harvest machinery can also be reduced. The presence of an established understorey of grass will stabilise ground conditions in the event of a wet harvest.

Opportunity for extra production

An undersown crop of grass can be grazed by livestock over the winter or cut for silage the following spring, giving year round production.

Recommended Mixtures, Sowing Times and Rates

The table gives typical sowing rates and mixture types to use when undersowing. The mixtures are formulated using drought resistant species to enable good establishment under the maize canopy, while minimising competition and therefore any yield impact on the maize.

For best establishment, seed should be drilled rather than broadcast and kept 15cm away from the maize plants.

Eligible for Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) Payment

Undersowing maize meets the requirements of two SFI actions:

- **CIPM3:** Companion crop on arable and horticultural land, worth £55/ha
- **SOH4*:** Winter cover following maize crops, worth £203/ha

The key difference between the two options is how long the grass needs to be maintained. If undersowing to meet the aims of CIPM3, the grass can be destroyed post maize harvest to allow for an autumn sown crop to be established. SOH4* requires there to be a well-established cover during the winter months, so the undersown crop needs to remain until the spring.

*SFI action SOH4: Winter cover following maize crops is now closed to new applications.

Maize Crop Growth Stage	Sowing Rate	Mixture Type	Mixture Name
At Drilling	8kg/ha	Tall Fescue and Festulolium	LG Under Maize Mixture
At 6 Leaf Stage	15kg/ha	Festulolium (Grazing and Cutting Types)	LG Over Maize Mixture

MANAGING MAIZE STUBBLES

Leaving maize stubbles bare over the winter is a missed cropping opportunity to produce more forage, and can lead to soil-related problems such as surface water run-off, soil erosion and loss of valuable soil nutrients.

Stubble Management and Cropping Options

These alternatives offer a combination of improved soil health, increased production and better income:

- Sowing an early-maturing maize variety can be followed by winter cereals, or a forage crop such as Westerwolds, Italian Ryegrass or Humbolt Forage Rye
- Growers who have applied for SFI action SOH4 can use species such as Ryegrasses and Humbolt Rye. These can be grazed over the winter months but are not permitted to be harvested as a 'cash crop'
- A multispecies cover crop mixture allows growers to apply for SFI action CSAM2, worth £129/ha. This option can be grazed and there is no restriction on harvesting as a 'cash crop.' Using **LG Lift N Fix** mixture, which includes a legume, improves feed value and will fix nitrogen

Maize crops can also be undersown with grass, as described on page 33.

Humbolt Forage Rye

Humbolt has a high tillering capacity to provide good over-winter cover and spring growth. It is earlier than Italian Ryegrass and Westerwolds. Humbolt also has very quick recovery after grazing and cutting.

SOWING RATE:

160-185kg/ha for maximum production
60-70kg/ha for green cover

LG Lift N Fix

LG Lift N Fix cover crop mixture comprises Humbolt Forage Rye and Vetch. Humbolt can hold nitrogen, preventing loss through leaching, whilst the Vetch fixes Nitrogen for the subsequent crop. The high protein content also increases feed value.

SOWING RATE:

160-185 kg/ha for maximum production
60-70 kg/ha for green cover

	Prevent Run Off	Build Organic Matter and Retention of Nutrients	Crop Output	SFI Scheme and Payment	Timing
Humbolt Forage Rye	✓	✓	✓	SOH4* - £203/ha	Sept - Oct
Westerwolds/ Italian Ryegrass	✓	✓	✓	SOH4* - £203/ha	Sept - Oct
Undersown Grass	✓	✓	✓	CIPM3 - £55/ha SOH4* - £203/ha	June - July
LG Lift N Fix	✓	✓	✓	SOH4* - £203/ha CSAM2 - £129/ha	Sept - Oct
Chisel Ploughing	✓	✗	✗	✗	Sept - Nov

*SFI action SOH4: Winter cover following maize crops is now closed to new applications.

SECOND CHOICE VARIETIES

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2027

RANKED BY EARLINESS

		MATURITY			YIELD DATA		AGRONOMIC DATA					STARCH DATA			ENERGY DATA			DIGESTIBILITY	
MATURITY GROUP	VARIETY	FAO RATING **	DM% (at harvest)	EARLIER/ LATER TO HARVEST (# Days +/- Prospect)	DM YIELD (t/ha)	REL DM YIELD (%)	EARLY VIGOUR (9=good, 1=poor)	STANDING (at harvest 9=good, 1=poor)	LODGING (%)	LEAF SENESCENCE (at harvest 9=good, 1=poor)	EYESPOT RATING (9=good, 1=poor)	STARCH YIELD (t/ha)	REL STARCH YIELD (%)	STARCH (% at harvest)	ME YIELD (MJ/ha at harvest)	REL ME YIELD (%)	ME (MJ/kg DM of fresh plant at harvest)	Cell Wall Digestibility ***	YEAR LISTED
Less Favourable Sites (Short Season Varieties)																			
Mean of the 4 & 5 year varieties			*35.6*	*36.8*	*18.0*	*100*	*7.0*	*7.8*	*0.9*	*6.4*	*5.7*	*6.2*	*100*	*34.3*	*209,156*	*100*	*11.6*	*7.5*	
ULTRA EARLY	KWS LETO	130	38.8	11	16.8	92	6.8	7.7	1.1	4.0	4.9	6.5	105	38.6	193,615	91	11.5	5.1	2024
ULTRA EARLY	RGT DUXXBURY	140	38.1	8	16.8	91	6.9	8.2	0.2	5.3	5.3	6.2	100	36.9	195,438	92	11.7	7.3	2018
VERY EARLY	**AMBITION**	**170**	**35.7**	**0**	**18.1**	**99**	**7.2**	**8.1**	**0.4**	**6.4**	**6.3**	**6.4**	**103**	**35.2**	**208,892**	**98**	**11.5**	**6.6**	**2012**
Favourable Sites (Long Season Varieties)																			
EARLY	**HARMONY**	**180**	**36.2**	**-2**	**18.6**	**103**	**7.2**	**7.1**	**2.3**	**6.7**	**5.3**	**6.3**	**101**	**33.8**	**212,407**	**102**	**11.4**	**6.3**	**2025**
EARLY	RGT PIXXON	180	36.2	-2	17.9	99	6.9	8.0	0.5	6.9	7.1	5.9	96	33.2	207,381	99	11.6	8.2	2022
EARLY	DKC2742	180	35.5	-5	19.0	105	6.7	8.0	0.6	6.6	6.7	6.0	97	31.7	216,847	104	11.4	6.7	2025
EARLY	LIKEIT	190	34.7	-7	17.2	96	7.0	8.1	0.5	6.2	3.5	5.9	96	34.5	200,329	96	11.6	7.4	2018
EARLY	ES MYRDAL	190	34.6	-8	18.8	104	7.2	7.7	1.2	6.8	6.6	5.8	93	30.7	213,212	102	11.3	6.6	2022
EARLY	**LG31208** NEW	**190**	**33.6**	**-11**	**19.0**	**105**	**7.4**	**8.0**	**0.6**	**6.8**	**6.6**	**5.8**	**94**	**30.7**	**215,822**	**103**	**11.4**	**7.0**	**2026**
EARLY	EMELEEN	200	33.5	-11	18.6	103	6.9	7.7	1.2	6.8	8.2	5.8	94	31.5	212,731	102	11.5	7.4	2023
LATE	BAKERSFIELD NEW	200	33.1	-13	18.5	102	7.0	6.9	2.6	7.4	5.2	5.7	92	31.0	211,459	101	11.5	7.4	2026
LATE	**LG31207**	**200**	**33.1**	**-13**	**18.7**	**104**	**7.3**	**7.9**	**0.8**	**6.9**	**8.7**	**5.8**	**94**	**31.1**	**212,521**	**102**	**11.4**	**6.9**	**2023**
LATE	150R NEW	210	32.5	-15	18.6	103	7.2	7.9	0.8	7.5	5.5	5.7	93	30.9	211,368	101	11.4	6.7	2026
LATE	**LG31160** NEW	**210**	**32.1**	**-17**	**18.6**	**103**	**7.1**	**7.9**	**0.7**	**6.9**	**4.4**	**6.0**	**96**	**32.1**	**210,357**	**101**	**11.3**	**6.0**	**2026**
LATE	KWS GRANTURISMO	210	32.0	-17	19.0	105	6.8	8.0	0.5	6.7	8.2	5.6	90	29.2	214,127	102	11.3	6.6	2024
LATE	SMOOTHI CS	220	31.8	-17	18.3	101	6.5	7.5	1.5	7.1	7.8	5.6	90	30.6	206,597	99	11.3	7.0	2019
LATE	DKC3059 NEW	210	31.8	-18	18.1	100	6.2	7.6	1.4	7.0	6.3	5.3	86	29.4	202,249	97	11.2	6.3	2026
LATE	MAS 195P	230	30.5	-22	18.4	102	7.3	7.7	1.1	7.3	6.3	5.2	85	28.5	205,450	98	11.2	6.6	2025
LATE	RGT AXXIONAL NEW	250	27.8	-32	18.7	103	6.7	7.8	0.9	7.7	5.6	5.1	82	27.3	209,141	100	11.2	7.3	2026

NEW New in 2027 ***Cell Wall Digestibility (%) minus 50 **Limagrain Estimation of FAO # Limagrain estimate of days earlier / later to harvest than Prospect

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