THE 2025 LG MAIZE VARIETY SELECTION GUIDE

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

Limagrain Field Seeds

Limagrain

INDEPENDENT DATA TO AID VARIETY CHOICE

Introduction

Welcome to the LG Maize Variety Selection guide for 2025.

Spring 2024 saw many first-time and arable growers turn to maize as a low input alternative crop. Growing maize for grain also increased with benefits for rotational management of weeds etc. However, the challenges of the 2024 growing season may have highlighted areas for improvements.

By using the information in this guide, existing and new growers, can maximise crop performance. The aim is to preserve the improved genetic potential from breeders, reducing risk and make the crop more profitable.

Limagrain are proud to participate in the BSPB/NIAB testing of maize varieties and we encourage you to use the independent data in this publication when making variety decisions. We hope you find the guide helpful and wish you a successful growing season ahead.

Tim Richmond

LG Maize Product Manager UK and Ireland

Maize variety choice simplified

Getting maize variety choice wrong can be costly in terms of missed opportunity to produce the maximum feed energy from the crop. The LG Variety Selection Guide aims to make it easier for you to interpret the valuable independent data available to help you make the correct variety choice.

This guide includes data on the new varieties added to the 2025 BSPB/NIAB Descriptive Lists for Forage Maize and Anaerobic Digestion, allowing comparison to those already established in the market.

Independent data from BSPB/NIAB

This guide uses the Descriptive List data which is created from independent trials jointly carried out by NIAB and the British Society of Plant Breeders (BSPB). Varieties usually complete five years of testing, at up to nine locations within the UK. The data represents a varying range of growing and seasonal conditions, giving a very good indication of each varieties' potential.

We hope you will find this guide useful in helping you make an informed decision as to which maize varieties best suit both your growing conditions and expected feeding value of the resulting crop.

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM YOUR MAIZE?

PAGES		
6 - 13	Security of harvest	**MAIZE FOR LESS FAVOURABLE SITES FAO 140-200** Early maturing varieties that reduce the risk of a late harvest.
14 - 21	Maximum profitibility	**MAIZE FOR FAVOURABLE SITES FAO 170-230** Varieties that offer improved feeding efficiency and maximise crop output.
22 - 25	Maximum yield	**MAIZE FOR VERY FAVOURABLE SITES FAO 200-230** Later maturing varieties that require higher levels of heat units to provide enhanced yields.
26 - 29	Anaerobic Digestion	**MAIZE FOR ANAEROBIC DIGESTION FAO 170-230** High yielding crops that maximise yield per hectare.
30 - 31	Grain	**MAIZE FOR CRIMPING OR GRAIN** Varieties suitable for harvest as dried or crimped grain.
32 - 34	Protecting your crop	**PESTS, DISEASES AND SEED TREATMENTS** Seed treatment options to promote rapid growth or to protect against bird damage and fungal attack.
35 - 37	Good practice	**SOWING UNDER PLASTIC, SFI OPTIONS AND CROP MANAGEMENT ADVICE** Husbandry advice for undersowing or for good management of stubbles and crops following maize.
38 - 39	Appendix	**APPENDIX** Second choice varieties.

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!

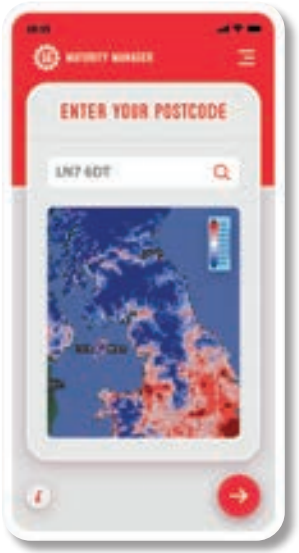
It is critical to choose the right maturity range for your situation. You must avoid harvesting in unpredictable conditions in October that could lead to compaction and damage soil structure.

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



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.

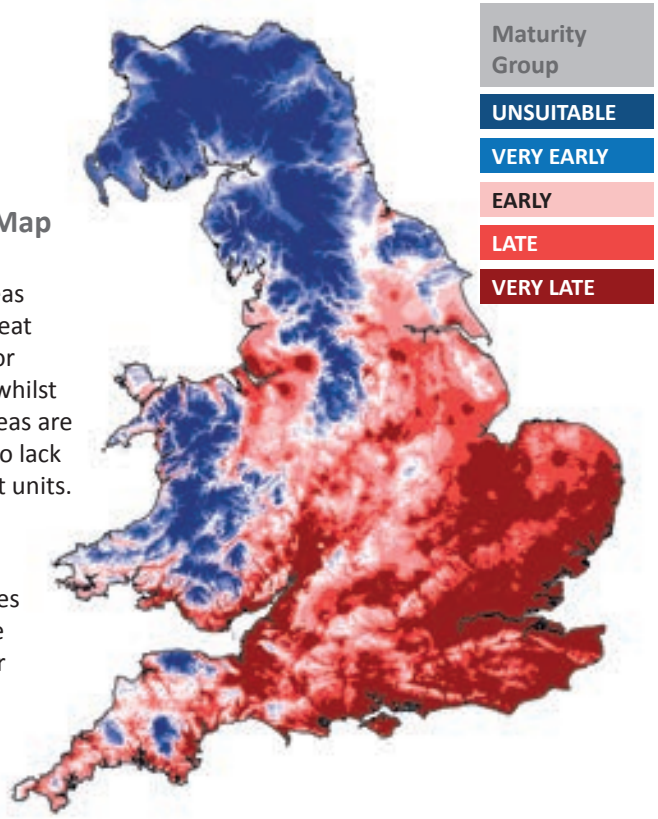
The tool uses the internationally recognised Ontario Heat Unit (OHU) system to show the average heat units available for maize to be grown in a location. Maize varieties differ in the number of heat units required to reach maturity and this affects their suitability to be grown in different locations.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

Maturity Group	FAO Range
UNSUITABLE	<2500 OHU
VERY EARLY	FAO 140-170
EARLY	FAO 170-200
LATE	FAO 200-220
VERY LATE	FAO 220-250

The LG Heat Map

The dark red areas have plenty of heat units available for growing maize, whilst 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.



VARIETY DATA IN TABLE AND CHART FORMAT

Tables provide the full set of trials data

MATURITY GROUP	VARIETY	MATURITY				YIELD DATA		AGRONOMIC DATA					YEAR LISTED
		MATURITY CLASS **	FAO RATING **	DM% (at harvest)	EARLIER/ LATER TO HARVEST (# Days +/- Ambition)	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)	
Mean of the year 4 & 5 varieties				*35.0*	*35.2*	*18.3*	*100*	*6.9*	*7.6*	*0.9*	*6.7*	*5.2*	
VERY EARLY	CITO KWS	12	140	40.4	18	16.6	91	6.8	7.6	0.9	4.6	5.4	2018
	KWS TEMPRANO NEW	12	140	40.4	18	17.1	94	6.9	7.2	1.4	4.0	4.8	2024
	KWS LETO NEW	12	140	39.4	15	17.4	95	6.8	7.4	1.2	3.6	5.0	2024
	GEMA	11	140	38.0	10	17.4	95	6.9	7.2	1.5	5.7	6.1	2021
	DUKE NEW	11	140	37.8	9	18.1	99	6.9	7.4	1.2	6.2	6.1	2024
	KWS CALVINI	10	160	37.3	8	18.1	99	7.0	7.8	0.7	5.5	6.9	2019
	REJKO NEW	10	160	37.3	7	18.5	101	6.9	7.8	0.7	6.2	6.2	2024
	TROOPER	10	160	36.6	5	17.6	96	7.0	8.2	0.2	6.3	1.6	2020
	KWS EXELON	9	160	36.3	4	18.5	101	6.8	6.7	2.1	6.3	8.1	2021
	SKIPPER	9	170	36.0	3	18.6	102	6.8	7.9	0.6	7.4	3.1	2023
	DIGNITY	9	170	35.6	1	18.8	103	7.0	7.9	0.6	6.7	2.6	2022
	RODRIGUEZ KWS	9	170	35.6	1	17.7	97	6.9	8.2	0.2	6.3	4.3	2015
	AYA NEW	9	170	35.5	1	18.6	102	7.2	7.5	1.1	7.1	2.6	2024
EARLY	PROSPECT	9	170	35.4	1	18.5	102	7.1	7.5	1.1	7.4	7.2	2019
	RGT OXXGOOD	9	170	35.4	1	18.0	98	6.8	7.5	1.0	6.2	6.3	2016
	KWS PASCO	9	170	35.2	0	19.1	105	7.0	7.3	1.3	6.6	7.5	2022
	*AMBITION**	9	170	35.2	0	18.1	99	7.0	7.9	0.5	7.0	6.3	2012
	FAITH	9	170	35.2	0	18.9	104	7.2	7.6	0.9	6.7	2.9	2023
	FOXTROT	9	170	35.0	-1	18.7	102	7.0	6.2	2.8	7.2	2.7	2023
	*PROMISE** NEW	8	180	35.0	-1	19.4	106	7.1	7.1	1.7	6.7	2.5	2024
	SAXON	8	180	34.9	-1	19.4	106	7.2	7.0	1.8	6.7	3.0	2022
	PINNACLE	8	180	34.7	-2	18.3	100	6.8	7.1	1.6	7.3	6.6	2018
	MAS 075B NEW	8	180	34.6	-2	18.5	101	6.6	7.5	1.1	6.9	5.8	2024
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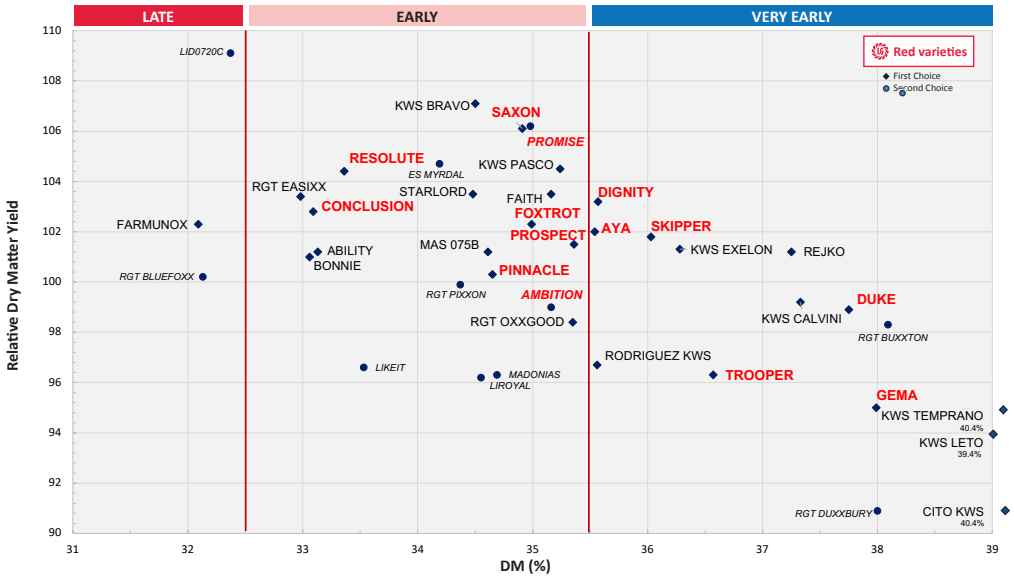
LATE	FARMUNOX	5	200	32.1	-11	18.7	102	6.5	6.9	1.9	7.7	7.1	2020

NEW New in 2025 ** MC = Limagrain Estimation of Maturity Class * Second choice variety # Limagrain estimate of days earlier / later to harvest than Ambition, the BSPB/NIAB early control variety

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. Agronomy information is included for yield, early vigour and disease resistance.

Feed quality information includes detail on both starch, energy yield and content. In addition, digestibility of maize is shown by the CWD scores.

Varieties are split into maturity segments

Varieties are divided into groups of similar maturity to enable easy comparison.

The main three groups are:

Very Early Suitable for early harvest or marginal sites

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 2025: Less Favourable Sites

VARIETIES FOR LESS FAVOURABLE SITES

FIRST CHOICE VARIETIES - RANKED BY EARLINESS

		MATURITY				YIELD DATA		AGRONOMIC DATA					
MATURITY GROUP	VARIETY	MATURITY CLASS **	FAO RATING **	DM% (at harvest)	EARLIER/ LATER TO HARVEST (# Days +/- Ambition)	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
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NEW New in 2025 ** MC = Limagrain Estimation of Maturity Class * Second choice variety # Limagrain estimate of days earlier / later to harvest than Ambition, the BSPB/NIAB early control variety

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.

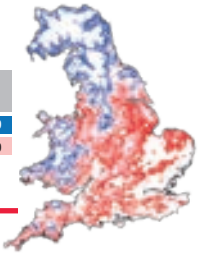
Eyespot rating

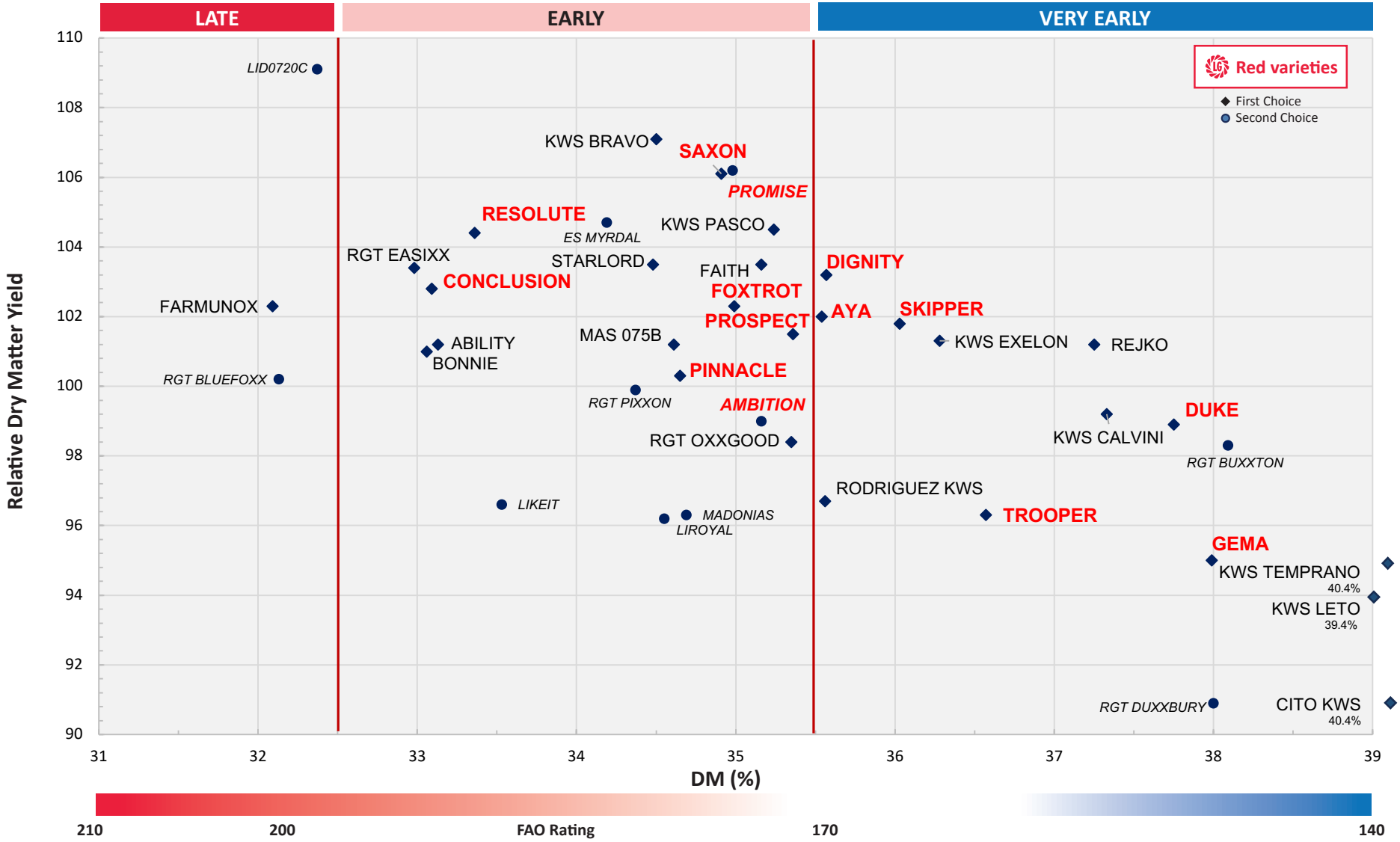
Eyespot rating is derived from NIAB inoculated nursery trials rather than field scores. Fungicide sprays can control the disease for varieties with a low score.

RELATIVE DRY MATTER YIELD v DM%

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2025: Less Favourable Sites

Maturity Group	FAO Range
VERY EARLY	FAO 140-170
EARLY	FAO 170-200





VARIETIES FOR LESS FAVOURABLE SITES

RELATIVE STARCH YIELD AND CONTENT

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2025: Less Favourable Sites

VARIETIES FOR LESS FAVOURABLE SITES

FIRST CHOICE VARIETIES - RANKED BY STARCH YIELD

		MATURITY				STARCH DATA			
MATURITY GROUP	VARIETY	MATURITY CLASS **	FAO RATING **	DM% (At harvest)	EARLIER/ LATER TO HARVEST (# Days +/- Ambition)	STARCH YIELD (t/ha)	RELATIVE STARCH YIELD (%)	STARCH (% at harvest)	YEAR LISTED
Mean of the 4 & 5 year varieties				*35.0*	*35.2*	*6.4*	*100*	*35.1*	
VERY EARLY	**DUKE** NEW	**11**	**140**	**37.8**	**9**	**7.0**	**109**	**38.6**	**2024**
	CITO KWS	12	140	40.4	18	6.8	106	40.8	2018
	SKIPPER	**9**	**170**	**36.0**	**3**	**6.8**	**106**	**36.4**	**2023**
	KWS CALVINI	10	160	37.3	8	6.7	105	37.2	2019
	RODRIGUEZ KWS	9	170	35.6	1	6.7	105	38.0	2015
	KWS LETO NEW	12	140	39.4	15	6.7	104	38.4	2024
	KWS EXELON	9	160	36.3	4	6.6	104	35.8	2021
	GEMA	**11**	**140**	**38.0**	**10**	**6.6**	**103**	**38.0**	**2021**
	KWS TEMPRANO NEW	12	140	40.4	18	6.6	103	38.5	2024
	DIGNITY	**9**	**170**	**35.6**	**1**	**6.6**	**103**	**34.9**	**2022**
	REJKO NEW	10	160	37.3	7	6.6	103	35.5	2024
	AYA NEW	**9**	**170**	**35.5**	**1**	**6.6**	**102**	**35.2**	**2024**
	TROOPER	**10**	**160**	**36.6**	**5**	**6.4**	**100**	**36.3**	**2020**
EARLY	KWS BRAVO NEW	8	180	34.5	-2	6.9	109	35.5	2024
	STARLORD NEW	8	180	34.5	-2	6.7	105	35.7	2024
	PROSPECT	**9**	**170**	**35.4**	**1**	**6.7**	**104**	**36.1**	**2019**
	PINNACLE	**8**	**180**	**34.7**	**-2**	**6.6**	**103**	**36.2**	**2018**
	KWS PASCO	9	170	35.2	0	6.6	103	34.7	2022
	FOXTROT	**9**	**170**	**35.0**	**-1**	**6.6**	**103**	**35.4**	**2023**
	MAS 075B NEW	8	180	34.6	-2	6.6	103	35.5	2024
	SAXON	**8**	**180**	**34.9**	**-1**	**6.6**	**102**	**33.9**	**2022**
	FAITH	9	170	35.2	0	6.5	102	34.6	2023
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	CONCLUSION	**7**	**190**	**33.1**	**-7**	**6.5**	**101**	**34.5**	**2020**
	PROMISE* NEW	**8**	**180**	**35.0**	**-1**	**6.4**	**100**	**33.1**	**2024**
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	BONNIE	7	190	33.1	-7	6.4	100	34.8	2017
	AMBITION*	**9**	**170**	**35.2**	**0**	**6.3**	**99**	**34.9**	**2012**
	RGT EASIXX	7	190	33.0	-8	6.1	96	32.5	2023
	ABILITY	7	190	33.1	-7	6.0	93	32.3	2020
LATE	FARMUNOX	5	200	32.1	-11	6.2	96	33.0	2020

NEW New in 2025 ** MC = Limagrain Estimation of Maturity Class * Second choice variety # Limagrain estimate of days earlier / later to harvest than Ambition, the BSPB/NIAB early control variety

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%

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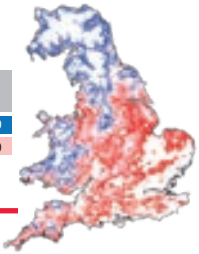
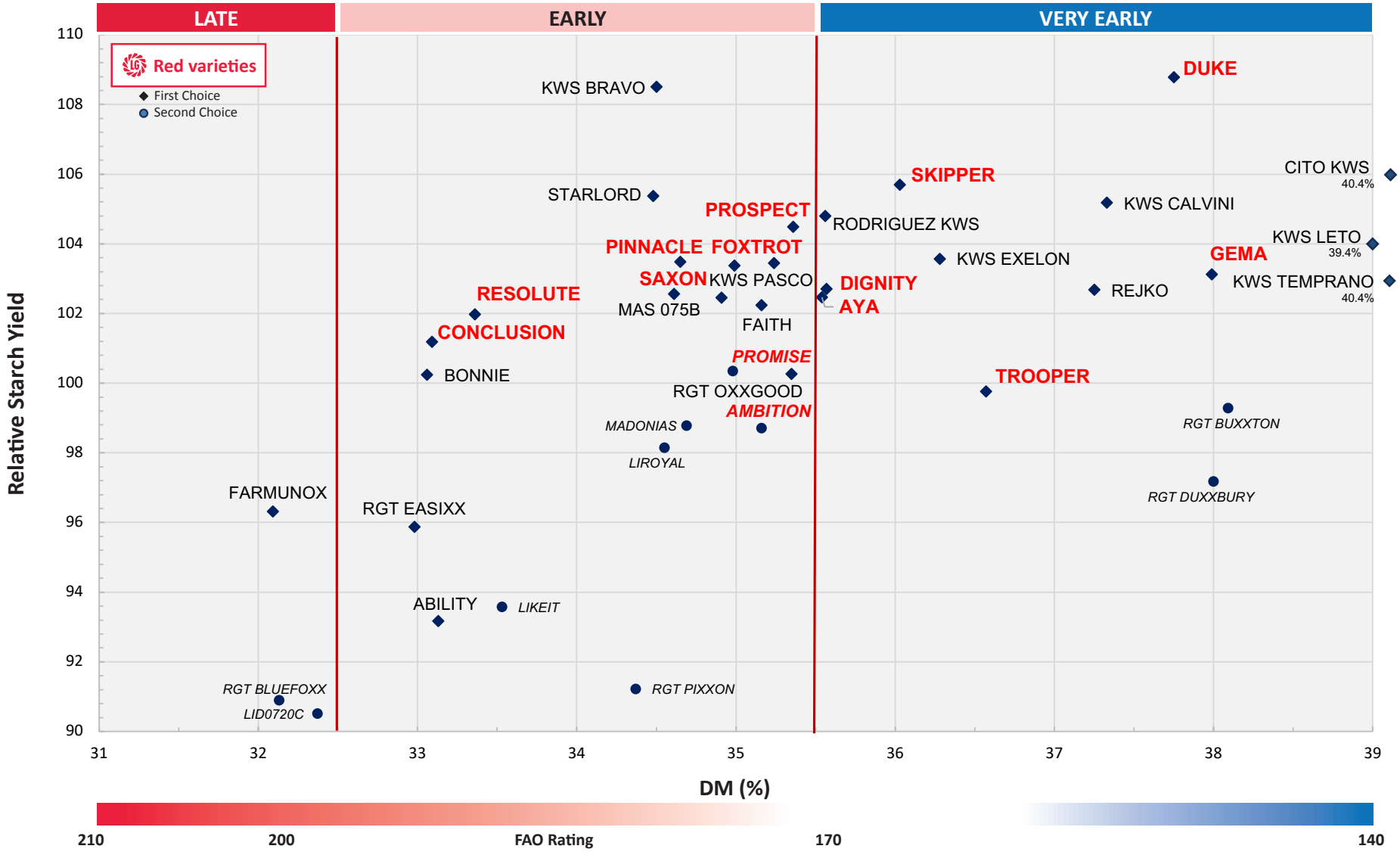
Maturity Group	FAO Range
VERY EARLY	FAO 140-170
EARLY	FAO 170-200





VARIETIES FOR LESS FAVOURABLE SITES

ME YIELD AND CELL WALL DIGESTIBILITY

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2025: Less Favourable Sites

FIRST CHOICE VARIETIES - RANKED BY ME YIELD

		MATURITY				ENERGY DATA			DIGESTIBILITY	
MATURITY GROUP	VARIETY	MATURITY CLASS **	FAO RATING **	DM% (At harvest)	EARLIER/ LATER TO HARVEST (# Days +/- Ambition)	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				*35.0*	*35.2*	*212,912*	*100*	*11.7*	*8.1*	
VERY EARLY	DIGNITY	9	170	35.6	1	220,108	103	11.7	8.5	2022
	SKIPPER	9	170	36.0	3	218,451	103	11.8	8.3	2023
	AYA NEW	9	170	35.5	1	217,463	102	11.7	8.1	2024
	KWS EXELON	9	160	36.3	4	216,302	102	11.7	7.8	2021
	REJKO NEW	10	160	37.3	7	216,278	102	11.7	8.3	2024
	DUKE NEW	11	140	37.8	9	215,546	101	11.9	8.8	2024
	KWS CALVINI	10	160	37.3	8	212,901	100	11.8	8.0	2019
	RODRIGUEZ KWS	9	170	35.6	1	207,576	97	11.8	7.9	2015
	TROOPER	10	160	36.6	5	206,741	97	11.8	8.4	2020
	GEMA	11	140	38.0	10	202,405	95	11.7	7.3	2021
	KWS LETO NEW	12	140	39.4	15	201,730	95	11.6	6.6	2024
	KWS TEMPRANO NEW	12	140	40.4	18	201,432	95	11.8	7.7	2024
	CITO KWS	12	140	40.4	18	200,670	94	12.1	9.2	2018
EARLY	KWS BRAVO NEW	8	180	34.5	-2	228,149	107	11.7	7.7	2024
	SAXON	8	180	34.9	-1	225,951	106	11.7	8.4	2022
	STARLORD NEW	8	180	34.5	-2	223,115	105	11.8	9.3	2024
	PROMISE* NEW	8	180	35.0	-1	222,558	105	11.5	7.5	2024
	RESOLUTE	7	190	33.4	-6	222,354	104	11.7	8.3	2020
	CONCLUSION	7	190	33.1	-7	221,655	104	11.8	9.6	2020
	KWS PASCO	9	170	35.2	0	220,679	104	11.6	7.4	2022
	FOXTROT	9	170	35.0	-1	219,626	103	11.8	8.4	2023
	MAS 075B NEW	8	180	34.6	-2	219,368	103	11.9	10.0	2024
	FAITH	9	170	35.2	0	218,994	103	11.6	7.8	2023
	PROSPECT	9	170	35.4	1	218,506	103	11.8	8.7	2019
	RGT EASIXX	7	190	33.0	-8	216,554	102	11.5	7.8	2023
	BONNIE	7	190	33.1	-7	216,301	102	11.7	8.7	2017
	PINNACLE	8	180	34.7	-2	214,362	101	11.7	7.9	2018
	ABILITY	7	190	33.1	-7	213,892	100	11.6	8.4	2020
	RGT OXXGOOD	9	170	35.4	1	209,836	99	11.7	8.2	2016
	AMBITION*	9	170	35.2	0	208,101	98	11.5	6.9	2012
LATE	FARMUNOX	5	200	32	-11	216,785	102	11.6	7.6	2020

NEW New in 2025 ** MC = Limagrain Estimation of Maturity Class * Second choice variety # Limagrain estimate of days earlier / later to harvest than Ambition, the BSPB/NIAB early control variety ~ Cell Wall Digestibility (%) minus 50

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 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).

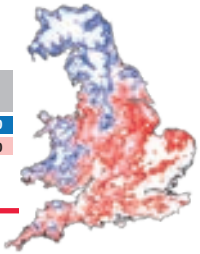
CWD and anaerobic digestion

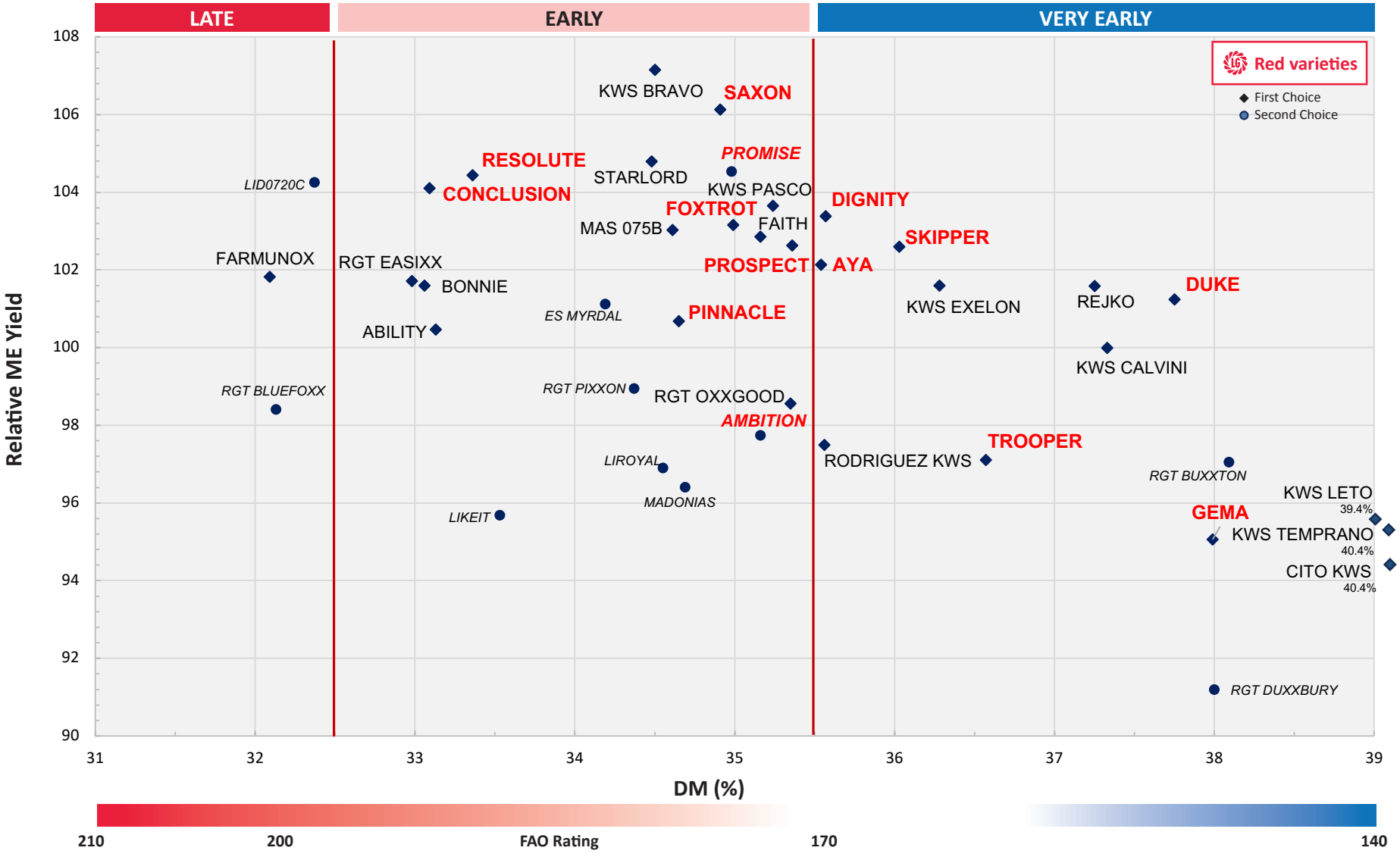
Improved digestibility of fibre increases the energy available for gas production, improving efficiency and reducing digestate output.

RELATIVE ME YIELD v DM%

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2025: Less Favourable Sites

Maturity Group	FAO Range
VERY EARLY	FAO 140-170
EARLY	FAO 170-200

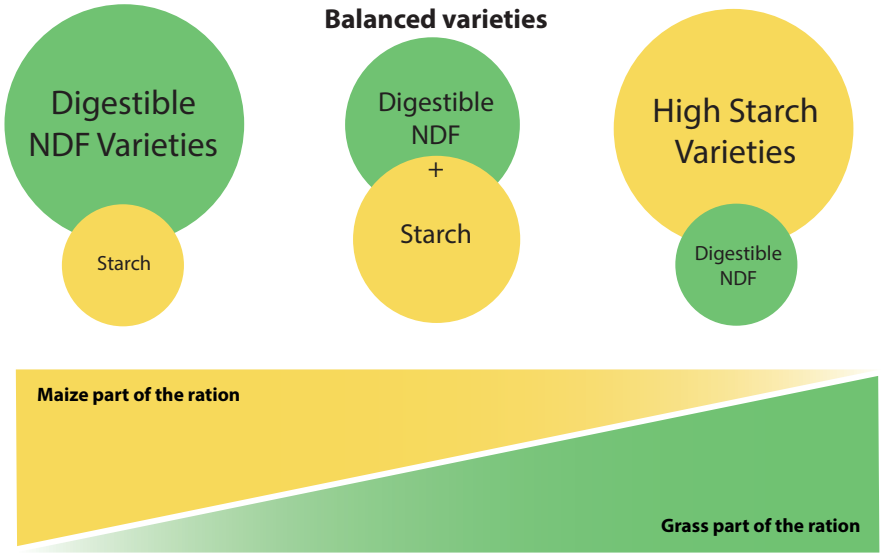




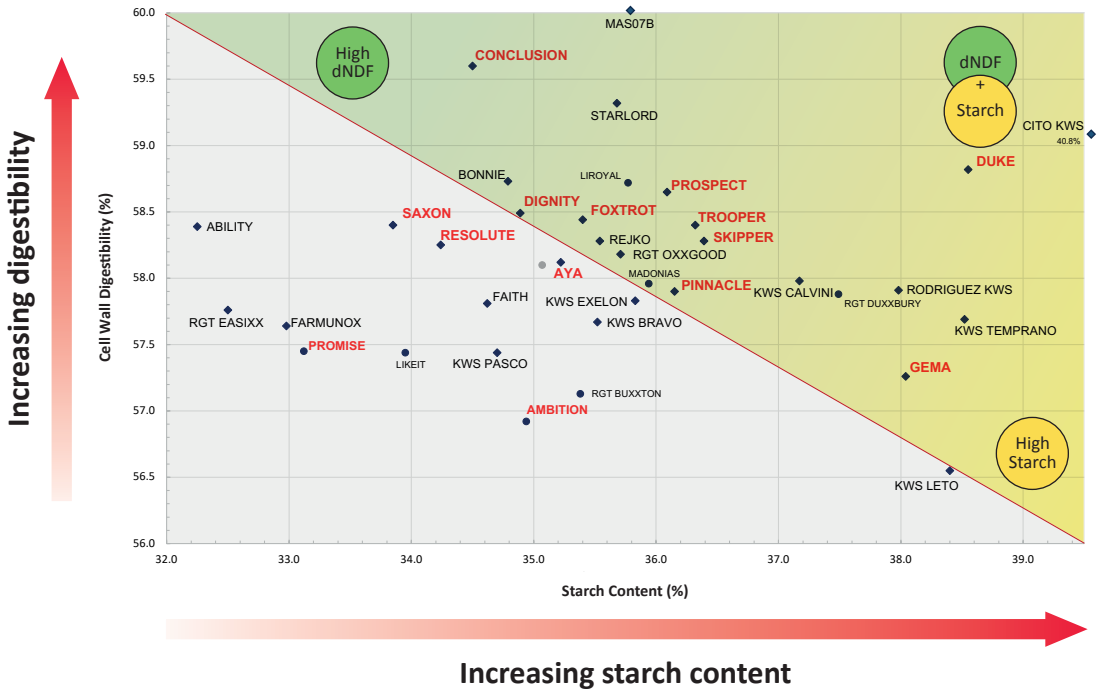
VARIETIES FOR LESS FAVOURABLE SITES

FEEDING QUALITY EXPLAINED

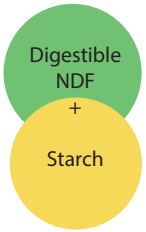
Where to use starch or digestible fibre type varieties in the ration



Varieties high in both starch and digestible fibre perform best



Balanced varieties

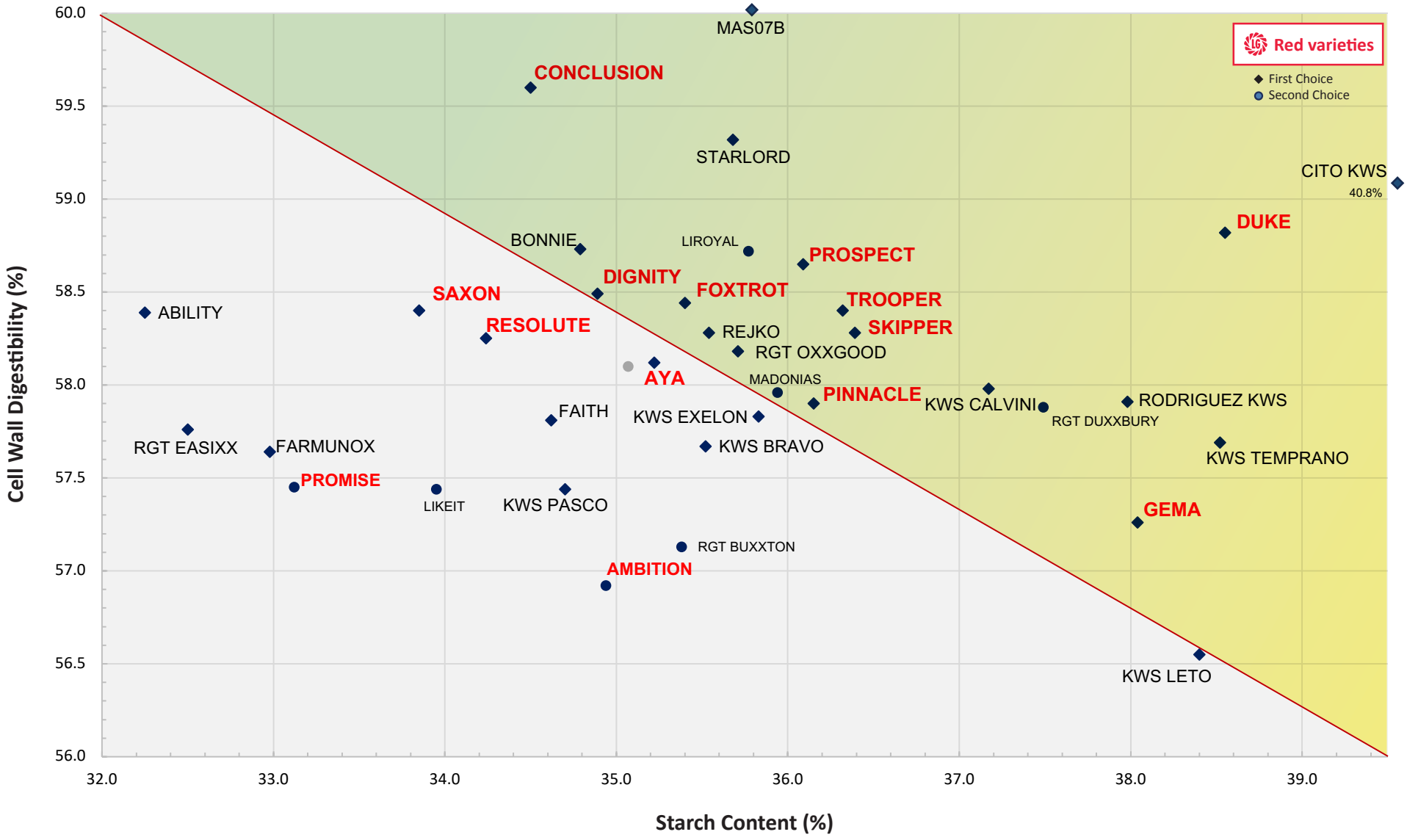


Balanced varieties with improved digestibility and a high starch content will maximize energy production:

- Higher energy content
- A more productive and balanced feed
- Improved dry matter intake
- Better feed efficiency
- Better for animal health
- Improved gas yield for AD

FEEDING QUALITY: CELL WALL DIGESTIBILITY v STARCH CONTENT

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2023: Less Favourable Sites



VARIETIES FOR LESS FAVOURABLE SITES

RELATIVE DRY MATTER YIELD AND AGRONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2025: Favourable Sites

VARIETIES FOR FAVOURABLE SITES

FIRST CHOICE VARIETIES – RANKED BY EARLINESS

		MATURITY				YIELD DATA		AGRONOMIC DATA					
MATURITY GROUP	VARIETY	MATURITY CLASS **	FAO RATING **	DM% (at harvest)	EARLIER/ LATER TO HARVEST (# Days +/- Ambition)	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				*34.2*	*35.4*	*18.5*	*100*	*6.9*	*7.7*	*0.9*	*7.0*	*5.6*	
VERY EARLY	KWS TEMPRANO NEW	12	140	39.6	15	17.3	94	6.7	7.7	0.8	4.3	4.8	2024
	CITO KWS	12	140	38.8	12	17.0	92	6.9	7.8	0.7	5.6	5.4	2018
	DUKE NEW	**11**	**140**	**37.5**	**7**	**18.1**	**98**	**7.0**	**7.7**	**0.8**	**6.2**	**6.1**	**2024**
	GEMA*	**11**	**140**	**36.9**	**5**	**17.6**	**95**	**6.7**	**7.3**	**1.4**	**6.2**	**6.1**	**2021**
	REJKO NEW	10	160	36.9	5	18.4	99	6.7	8.1	0.3	6.2	6.2	2024
	KWS CALVINI	10	160	36.1	2	18.4	100	7.1	7.8	0.6	5.9	6.9	2019
	PROSPECT	**9**	**170**	**36.0**	**2**	**18.6**	**100**	**7.1**	**7.8**	**0.7**	**7.2**	**7.2**	**2019**
	TROOPER	**10**	**160**	**35.9**	**2**	**18.0**	**97**	**7.1**	**8.2**	**0.2**	**6.8**	**1.6**	**2020**
	SKIPPER	**9**	**170**	**35.8**	**1**	**18.8**	**101**	**7.1**	**7.9**	**0.5**	**7.3**	**3.1**	**2023**
	DIGNITY	**9**	**170**	**35.8**	**1**	**19.2**	**103**	**7.1**	**7.6**	**1.0**	**6.8**	**2.6**	**2022**
	FAITH	9	170	35.5	0	19.1	103	7.2	7.8	0.7	6.6	2.9	2023
	AMBITION*	***9***	***170***	***35.4***	***0***	***18.4***	***99***	***7.1***	***8.1***	***0.3***	***6.9***	***6.3***	***2012***
	FOXTROT	**9**	**170**	**35.3**	**0**	**19.0**	**103**	**7.2**	**6.7**	**2.2**	**7.2**	**2.7**	**2023**
	AYA NEW	**9**	**170**	**35.3**	**0**	**18.6**	**101**	**6.9**	**7.7**	**0.8**	**7.2**	**2.6**	**2024**
EARLY	KWS EXELON	9	170	35.2	-1	18.7	101	6.9	7.1	1.6	6.9	8.1	2021
	PROMISE NEW	**8**	**180**	**35.1**	**-1**	**19.6**	**106**	**7.1**	**7.4**	**1.2**	**6.6**	**2.5**	**2024**
	SAXON	**8**	**180**	**35.0**	**-1**	**19.5**	**105**	**7.5**	**7.1**	**1.6**	**6.8**	**3.0**	**2022**
	PINNACLE	**8**	**180**	**34.9**	**-2**	**18.2**	**98**	**7.0**	**7.4**	**1.2**	**7.2**	**6.6**	**2018**
	RODRIGUEZ KWS	9	170	34.9	-2	18.1	98	6.9	8.2	0.1	6.8	4.3	2015
	KWS PASCO	9	170	34.3	-4	18.9	102	6.9	7.6	1.0	6.9	7.5	2022
	MAS 075B NEW	8	180	33.9	-5	18.9	102	6.8	6.9	1.9	6.9	5.8	2024
	KWS BRAVO NEW	8	180	33.6	-6	19.6	106	6.7	7.8	0.7	7.6	7.8	2024
	STARLORD NEW	8	180	33.5	-7	19.1	103	6.7	6.8	2.0	6.7	7.1	2024
	CONCLUSION	**7**	**190**	**33.4**	**-7**	**18.9**	**102**	**7.4**	**7.6**	**0.9**	**7.2**	**4.2**	**2020**
	KWS KAMPINOS NEW	7	190	33.3	-7	19.5	105	6.8	4.7	4.8	7.3	5.0	2024
	BONNIE	7	190	33.2	-8	18.6	101	7.2	7.9	0.6	7.6	6.2	2017
	KWS ANASTASIO	7	190	33.1	-8	19.2	103	7.1	7.6	0.9	7.5	7.1	2022
	RESOLUTE	**7**	**190**	**33.1**	**-8**	**19.0**	**102**	**7.0**	**7.6**	**0.9**	**7.5**	**2.5**	**2020**
	PAPAGENO NEW	6	200	32.3	-11	19.5	105	6.7	7.2	1.4	7.5	6.4	2024
LATE	EMELEEN	6	200	32.1	-11	19.5	105	6.9	7.5	1.0	7.2	7.4	2023
	FARMUNOX	5	200	31.9	-12	18.7	101	6.4	6.8	2.0	7.7	7.1	2020
	JUSTICE NEW	5	200	31.7	-13	19.5	105	7.2	7.9	0.6	7.0	7.7	2024
	LG31207	**5**	**210**	**31.6**	**-13**	**19.4**	**105**	**7.1**	**7.9**	**0.6**	**7.4**	**7.8**	**2023**
	CROSBEY	5	210	30.9	-16	19.1	103	6.5	8.0	0.3	7.5	6.0	2023
	KWS GRANTURISMO NEW	4	220	30.8	-16	20.2	109	6.8	8.1	0.3	7.1	7.4	2024
	SMOOTHI CS	4	230	30.2	-18	18.9	102	6.4	6.9	1.9	7.4	7.4	2019
	ES PALLADIUM	3	240	29.3	-21	19.6	106	6.9	7.5	1.1	7.4	5.0	2023

NEW New in 2025 ** MC = Limagrain Estimation of Maturity Class * Second choice variety # Limagrain estimate of days earlier / later to harvest than Ambition, the BSPB/NIAB early control variety

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.

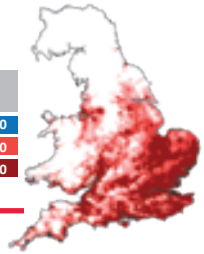
Eyespot rating

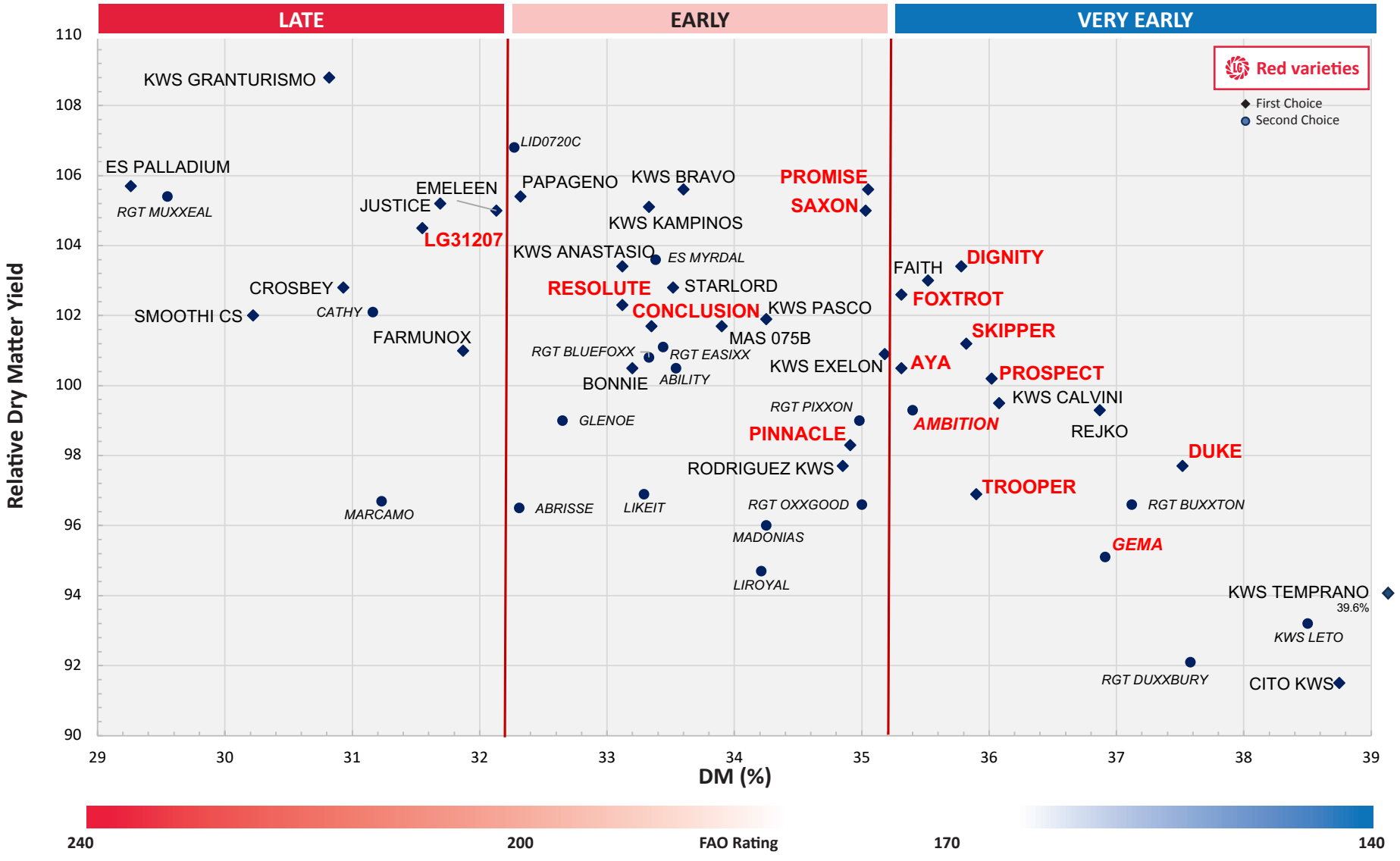
Eyespot rating is derived from NIAB inoculated nursery trials rather than field scores. Fungicide sprays can control the disease for varieties with a low score.

RELATIVE DRY MATTER YIELD v DM%

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2025: Favourable Sites

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





RELATIVE STARCH YIELD AND CONTENT

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2025: Favourable Sites

VARIETIES FOR FAVOURABLE SITES

FIRST CHOICE VARIETIES – RANKED BY STARCH YIELD

		MATURITY				STARCH DATA			
MATURITY GROUP	VARIETY	MATURITY CLASS **	FAO RATING **	DM% (At harvest)	EARLIER/ LATER TO HARVEST (# Days +/- Ambition)	STARCH YIELD (t/ha)	RELATIVE STARCH YIELD (%)	STARCH (% at harvest)	YEAR LISTED
Mean of the 4 & 5 year varieties				*34.2*	*35.4*	*6.2*	*100*	*33.5*	
VERY EARLY	**DUKE** NEW	**11**	**140**	**37.5**	**7**	**6.7**	**108**	**37.2**	**2024**
	KWS TEMPRANO NEW	12	140	39.6	15	6.7	108	38.6	2024
	FOXTROT	**9**	**170**	**35.3**	**0**	**6.7**	**107**	**35.1**	**2023**
	PROSPECT	**9**	**170**	**36.0**	**2**	**6.7**	**107**	**35.9**	**2019**
	SKIPPER	**9**	**170**	**35.8**	**1**	**6.7**	**107**	**35.5**	**2023**
	GEMA*	**11**	**140**	**36.9**	**5**	**6.6**	**107**	**37.6**	**2021**
	KWS CALVINI	10	160	36.1	2	6.6	106	35.6	2019
	CITO KWS	12	140	38.8	12	6.5	105	38.6	2018
	DIGNITY	**9**	**170**	**35.8**	**1**	**6.5**	**105**	**34.1**	**2022**
	AYA NEW	**9**	**170**	**35.3**	**0**	**6.5**	**105**	**35.1**	**2024**
	REJKO NEW	10	160	36.9	5	6.5	105	35.5	2024
	FAITH	9	170	35.5	0	6.5	105	34.2	2023
	TROOPER	**10**	**160**	**35.9**	**2**	**6.4**	**104**	**35.9**	**2020**
	AMBITION*	***9***	***170***	***35.4***	***0***	***6.4***	***103***	***34.9***	***2012***
EARLY	KWS KAMPINOS NEW	7	190	33.3	-7	6.8	109	34.7	2024
	RODRIGUEZ KWS	9	170	34.9	-2	6.7	107	36.7	2015
	KWS BRAVO NEW	8	180	33.6	-6	6.7	107	34.0	2024
	KWS EXELON	9	170	35.2	-1	6.6	106	35.2	2021
	PINNACLE	**8**	**180**	**34.9**	**-2**	**6.5**	**105**	**35.7**	**2018**
	KWS PASCO	9	170	34.3	-4	6.5	104	34.4	2022
	PROMISE NEW	**8**	**180**	**35.1**	**-1**	**6.5**	**104**	**33.1**	**2024**
	CONCLUSION	**7**	**190**	**33.4**	**-7**	**6.4**	**104**	**34.2**	**2020**
	SAXON	**8**	**180**	**35.0**	**-1**	**6.4**	**103**	**32.9**	**2022**
	STARLORD NEW	8	180	33.5	-7	6.4	103	33.6	2024
	MAS 075B NEW	8	180	33.9	-5	6.4	103	33.9	2024
	BONNIE	7	190	33.2	-8	6.4	102	34.1	2017
	RESOLUTE	**7**	**190**	**33.1**	**-8**	**6.3**	**101**	**33.1**	**2020**
	PAPAGENO NEW	6	200	32.3	-11	6.3	101	32.0	2024
	KWS ANASTASIO	7	190	33.1	-8	6.2	100	32.5	2022
LATE	CROSBEY	5	210	30.9	-16	6.1	98	31.8	2023
	JUSTICE NEW	5	200	31.7	-13	6.0	97	30.9	2024
	FARMUNOX	5	200	31.9	-12	6.0	97	32.1	2020
	EMELEEN	6	200	32.1	-11	5.9	94	30.0	2023
	LG31207	**5**	**210**	**31.6**	**-13**	**5.7**	**92**	**29.6**	**2023**
	KWS GRANTURISMO NEW	4	220	30.8	-16	5.6	90	27.8	2024
	SMOOTHI CS	4	230	30.2	-18	5.6	90	29.6	2019
	ES PALLADIUM	3	240	29.3	-21	5.3	85	26.9	2023

NEW New in 2025 ** MC = Limagrain Estimation of Maturity Class * Second choice variety # Limagrain estimate of days earlier / later to harvest than Ambition, the BSPB/NIAB early control variety

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' fueling 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.

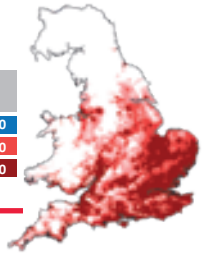
Starch and anaerobic digestion

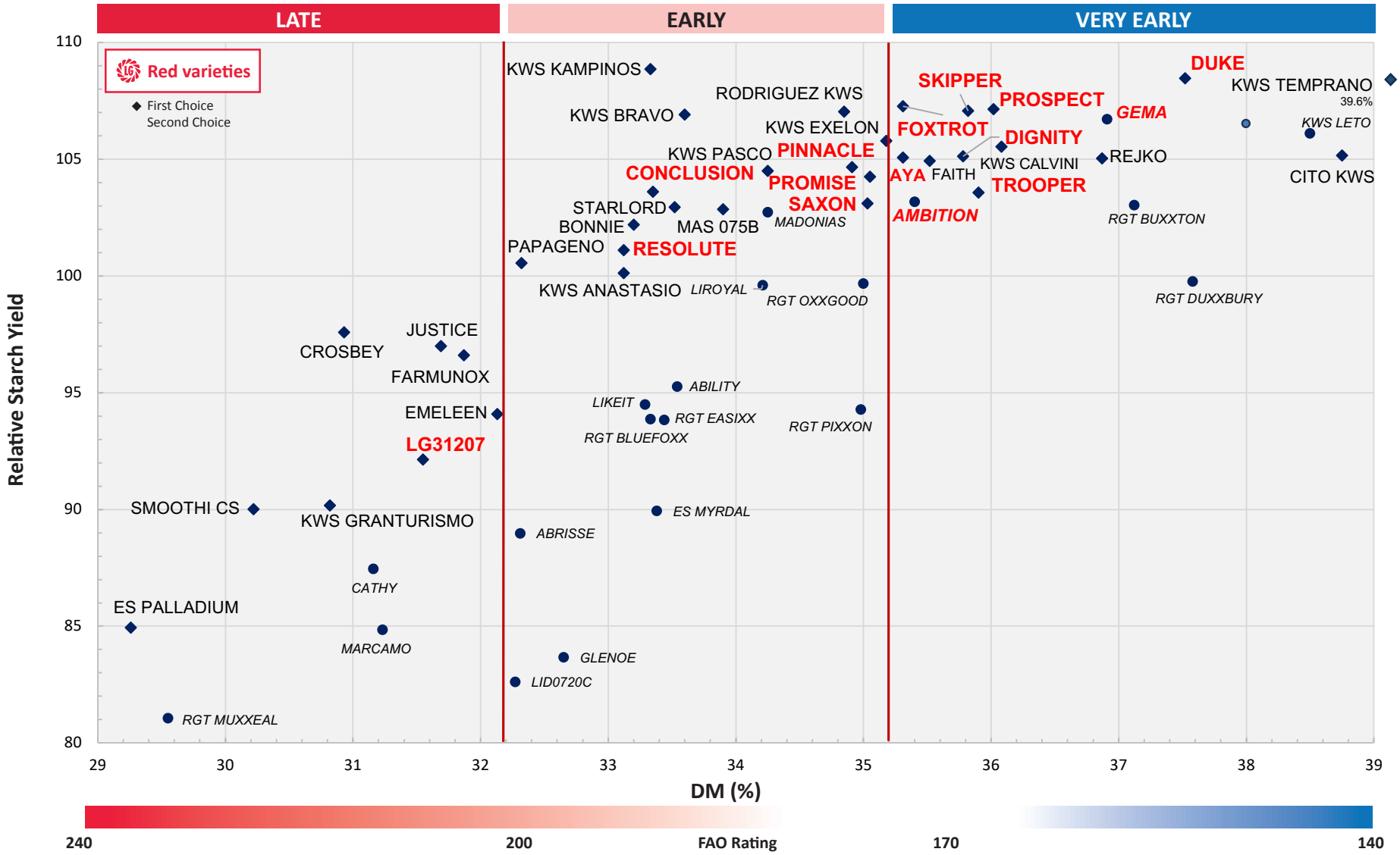
Starch is the major contributor to the total feedstock energy value of maize. Unlike soluble carbohydrates, starch remains stable in the ensiling process, preserving the energy potential of the crop for improved gas production.

RELATIVE STARCH YIELD v DM%

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2025: Favourable Sites

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





VARIETIES FOR FAVOURABLE SITES

ME YIELD AND CELL WALL DIGESTIBILITY

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2025: Favourable Sites

VARIETIES FOR FAVOURABLE SITES

FIRST CHOICE VARIETIES - RANKED BY ME YIELD

		MATURITY				ENERGY DATA			DIGESTIBILITY	
MATURITY GROUP	VARIETY	MATURITY CLASS *	FAO RATING *	DM% (At harvest)	EARLIER/ LATER TO HARVEST (# Days +/- Ambition)	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				*34.2*		*215,175*	*100*	*11.6*	*8.1*	
VERY EARLY	**DIGNITY**	**9**	**170**	**35.8**	**1**	**223,827**	**104**	**11.7**	**8.7**	**2022**
	FOXTROT	**9**	**170**	**35.3**	**0**	**223,694**	**104**	**11.8**	**8.4**	**2023**
	FAITH	9	170	35.5	0	222,362	103	11.6	8.2	2023
	PROSPECT	**9**	**170**	**36.0**	**2**	**219,931**	**102**	**11.8**	**9.1**	**2019**
	SKIPPER	**9**	**170**	**35.8**	**1**	**219,177**	**102**	**11.7**	**7.9**	**2023**
	AYA NEW	**9**	**170**	**35.3**	**0**	**217,747**	**101**	**11.7**	**8.0**	**2024**
	KWS CALVINI	10	160	36.1	2	215,896	100	11.7	8.1	2019
	REJKO NEW	10	160	36.9	5	215,618	100	11.7	8.2	2024
	DUKE NEW	**11**	**140**	**37.5**	**7**	**214,205**	**100**	**11.8**	**8.2**	**2024**
	AMBITION*	**9**	**170**	**35.4**	**0**	**212,704**	**99**	**11.6**	**7.1**	**2012**
	TROOPER	**10**	**160**	**35.9**	**2**	**210,491**	**98**	**11.7**	**8.3**	**2020**
	GEMA*	**11**	**140**	**36.9**	**5**	**206,218**	**96**	**11.7**	**7.5**	**2021**
	KWS TEMPRANO NEW	12	140	39.6	15	204,213	95	11.8	7.5	2024
	CITO KWS	12	140	38.8	12	202,790	94	12.0	9.0	2018
EARLY	KWS KAMPINOS NEW	7	190	33.3	-7	229,552	107	11.8	8.7	2024
	SAXON	**8**	**180**	**35.0**	**-1**	**226,339**	**105**	**11.6**	**8.1**	**2022**
	KWS BRAVO NEW	8	180	33.6	-6	226,151	105	11.6	7.3	2024
	PROMISE NEW	**8**	**180**	**35.1**	**-1**	**226,110**	**105**	**11.6**	**7.9**	**2024**
	PAPAGENO NEW	6	200	32.3	-11	225,355	105	11.5	7.7	2024
	STARLORD NEW	8	180	33.5	-7	223,710	104	11.7	9.6	2024
	MAS 075B NEW	8	180	33.9	-5	222,680	103	11.8	9.9	2024
	CONCLUSION	**7**	**190**	**33.4**	**-7**	**222,341**	**103**	**11.8**	**9.4**	**2020**
	KWS ANASTASIO	7	190	33.1	-8	221,682	103	11.6	7.9	2022
	KWS PASCO	9	170	34.3	-4	220,166	102	11.7	7.8	2022
	RESOLUTE	**7**	**190**	**33.1**	**-8**	**220,109**	**102**	**11.6**	**8.2**	**2020**
	KWS EXELON	9	170	35.2	-1	219,749	102	11.8	8.0	2021
	BONNIE	7	190	33.2	-8	218,610	102	11.7	8.9	2017
	PINNACLE	**8**	**180**	**34.9**	**-2**	**213,374**	**99**	**11.7**	**8.0**	**2018**
	RODRIGUEZ KWS	9	170	34.9	-2	212,992	99	11.8	8.3	2015
LATE	KWS GRANTURISMO NEW	4	220	30.8	-16	226,771	105	11.2	7.1	2024
	ES PALLADIUM	3	240	29.3	-21	223,636	104	11.4	8.5	2023
	EMELEEN	6	200	32.1	-11	222,406	103	11.4	7.9	2023
	JUSTICE NEW	5	200	31.7	-13	222,242	103	11.4	7.4	2024
	LG31207	**5**	**210**	**31.6**	**-13**	**219,811**	**102**	**11.4**	**7.4**	**2023**
	FARMUNOX	5	200	31.9	-12	217,474	101	11.6	8.0	2020
	CROSBEY	5	210	30.9	-16	215,796	100	11.3	6.4	2023
	SMOOTHI CS	3	230	30.2	-18	214,383	100	11.3	7.8	2019

NEW New in 2025 ** MC = Limagrain Estimation of Maturity Class * Second choice variety # Limagrain estimate of days earlier / later to harvest than Ambition, the BSPB/NIAB early control variety

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 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).

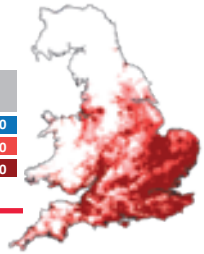
CWD and anaerobic digestion

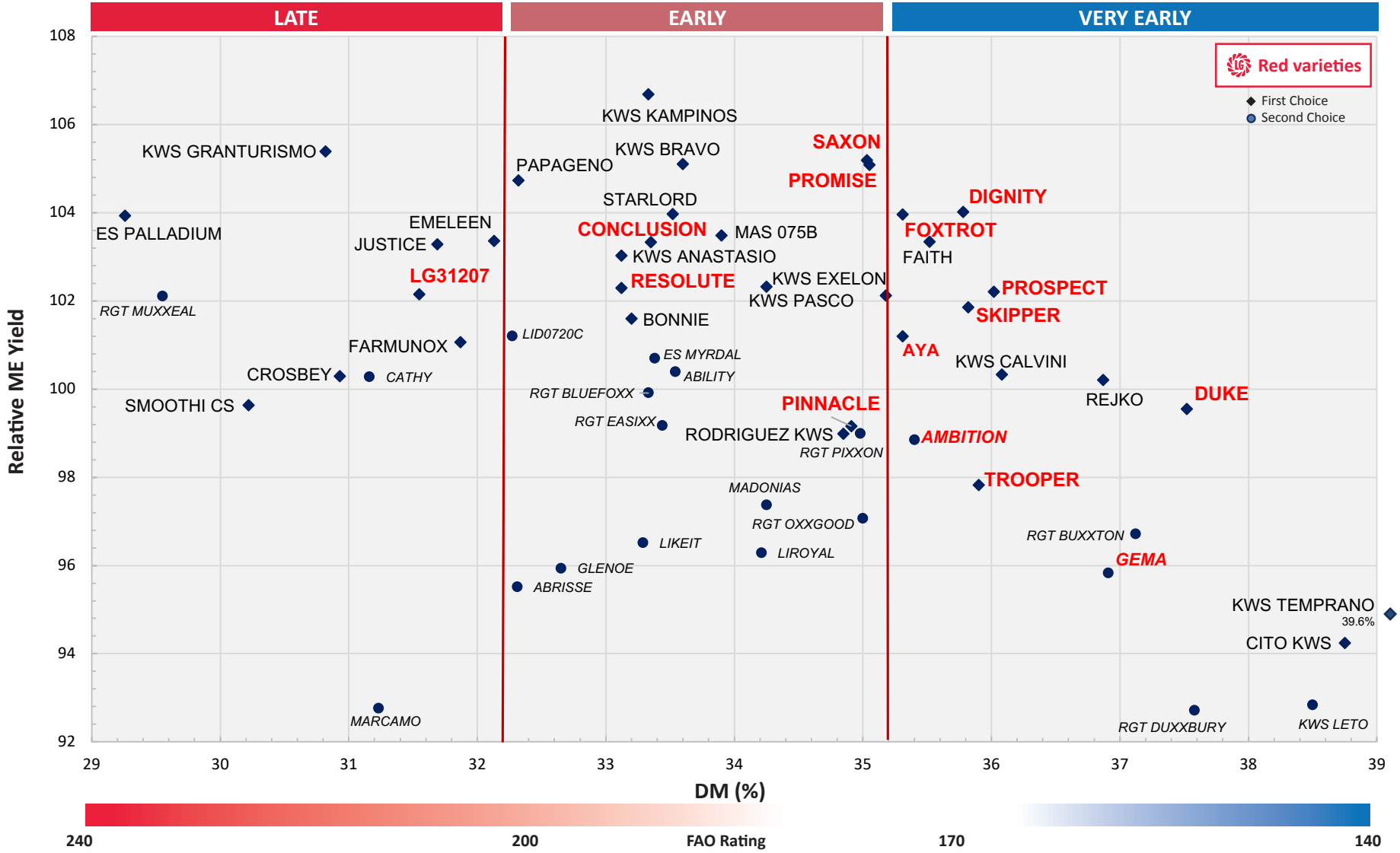
Improved digestibility of fibre increases the energy available for gas production, improving efficiency and reducing digestate output.

RELATIVE ME YIELD v DM%

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2025: Favourable Sites

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





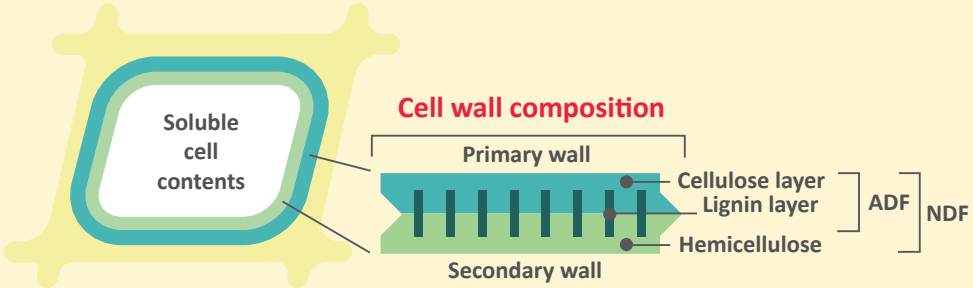
VARIETIES FOR FAVOURABLE SITES

Limagrain

FEEDING QUALITY

The impact of fibre digestibility

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



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.

AD plants can improve efficiency of gas production by increasing the highly degradable fibre content of maize silage to help speed passage through the digester.

To maximise feed quality, select LGAN varieties with both high starch content and cell wall digestibility. More information on the difference in CWD between varieties can be found on pages 10 and 18.

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.

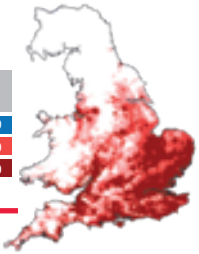
The lower the digestibility of cell wall, the slower the rate of forage digestion. Varieties with poor cell wall digestibility impact feed intakes with slower digestion and reduced production.

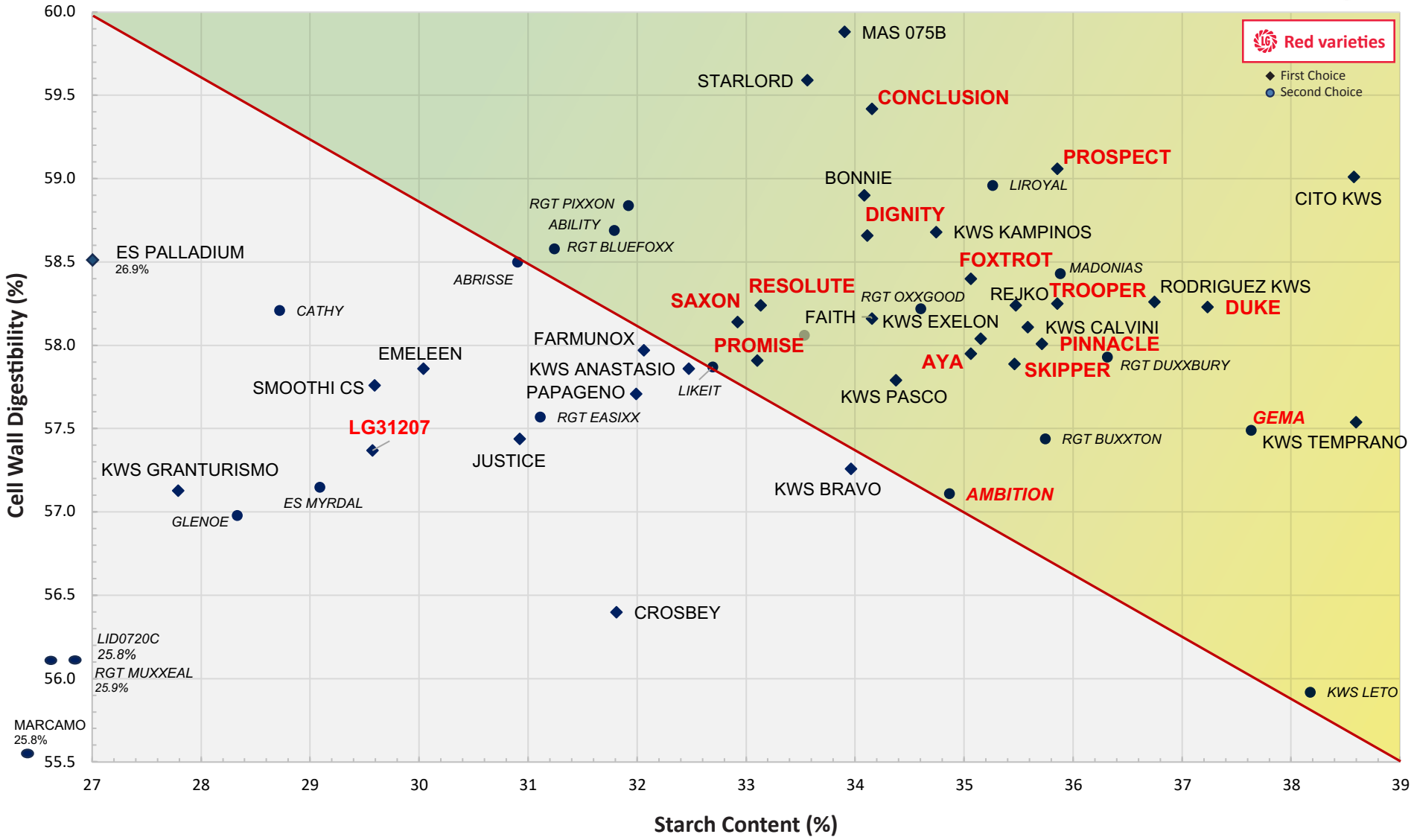
A maize variety with improved cell wall digestibility can be formulated into the diet at a higher level than one with a lower cell wall digestibility, saving money on purchased concentrates.

STARCH CONTENT v CELL WALL DIGESTIBILITY

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2023: Favourable Sites

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





VARIETIES FOR VERY FAVOURABLE SITES

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2025: Very Favourable Sites

RANKED BY ME YIELD

		MATURITY				YIELD DATA		AGRONOMIC DATA					STARCH DATA			ENERGY DATA			DIGESTIBILITY	
MATURITY GROUP	VARIETY	MATURITY CLASS *	FAO RATING *	DM% (At harvest)	EARLIER/ LATER TO HARVEST (# Days +/- SMOOTHI CS)	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
Mean of All Varieties				*34.8*	*34.2*	*18.7*	*100*	*7.2*	*7.7*	*0.9*	*5.7*	*7.5*	*5.9*	*100*	*31.4*	*211,959*	*100*	*11.4*	*6.5*	
LATE	LG31207	5	210	35.6	5	19.0	102	8.1	8.2	0.1	5.9	7.8	6.0	103	31.8	218,958	103	11.5	7.7	2023
LATE	LG31205	6	200	36.0	6	18.7	100	7.4	7.5	1.1	6.1	8.1	6.1	105	32.9	215,025	101	11.5	6.9	2018
LATE	MANTILLA	5	210	34.8	2	18.8	101	7.2	7.4	1.2	6.3	7.1	5.9	101	31.6	214,566	101	11.4	6.9	2021
LATE	SMOOTHI CS	4	230	34.2	0	18.7	100	7.1	7.8	0.7	5.6	7.4	5.9	101	31.7	211,835	100	11.3	6.5	2022
LATE	MARCAMO	5	210	36.2	7	17.8	95	6.6	5.6	3.6	3.6	7.2	5.8	98	32.4	201,692	95	11.3	5.6	2018
LATE	ABRISSE	6	200	36.4	7	15.8	85	6.0	8.2	0.2	5.0	8.2	5.3	91	33.7	184,815	87	11.7	9.0	2022
VERY LATE	MICHELEEN NEW	4	230	33.3	-3	20.4	109	7.8	7.5	1.1	6.4	6.2	6.2	106	30.6	230,969	109	11.3	6.3	2024
VERY LATE	JAKLEEN NEW	4	230	33.4	-3	20.0	107	7.5	8.1	0.3	5.7	5.9	5.8	99	29.0	228,066	108	11.4	7.5	2024
VERY LATE	ES METRONOM	3	230	31.7	-9	18.9	102	7.0	8.2	0.1	6.6	7.9	5.4	92	28.3	209,742	99	11.1	5.3	2018

NEW New in 2025 ~ Cell Wall Digestibility (%) minus 50 * MC = Limagrain Estimation of Maturity Class (Note: NIAB longer provide figures for maturity class) # Limagrain estimate of days earlier to harvest than Smoothi CS ~ Cell Wall Digestibility (%) minus 50

Data on later maturing varieties suitable for sites with very high heat unit potential

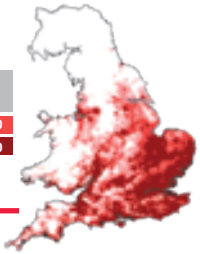
Growers on sites which receive an exceptionally high level of heat units (OHU's) during the season, can utilise maize varieties of FAO 210 or above. Geographically, this tends to be in the East and South East of England.

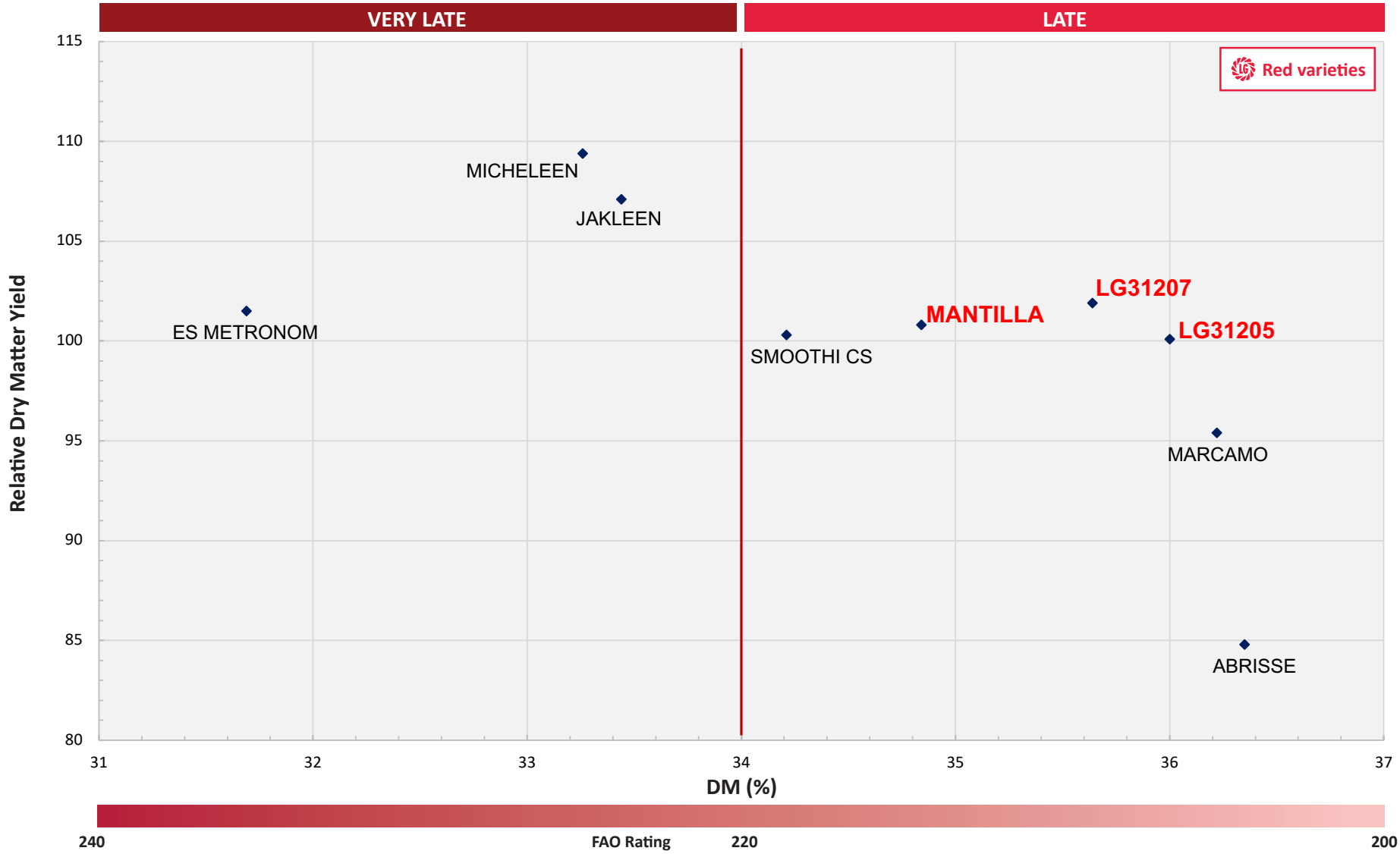
New data from independent trials is now available that shows the potential performance of varieties grown in these areas.

RELATIVE DRY MATTER YIELD v DM%

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2025: Very Favourable Sites

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

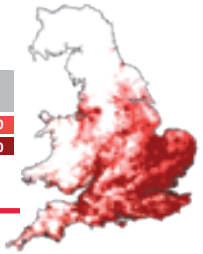


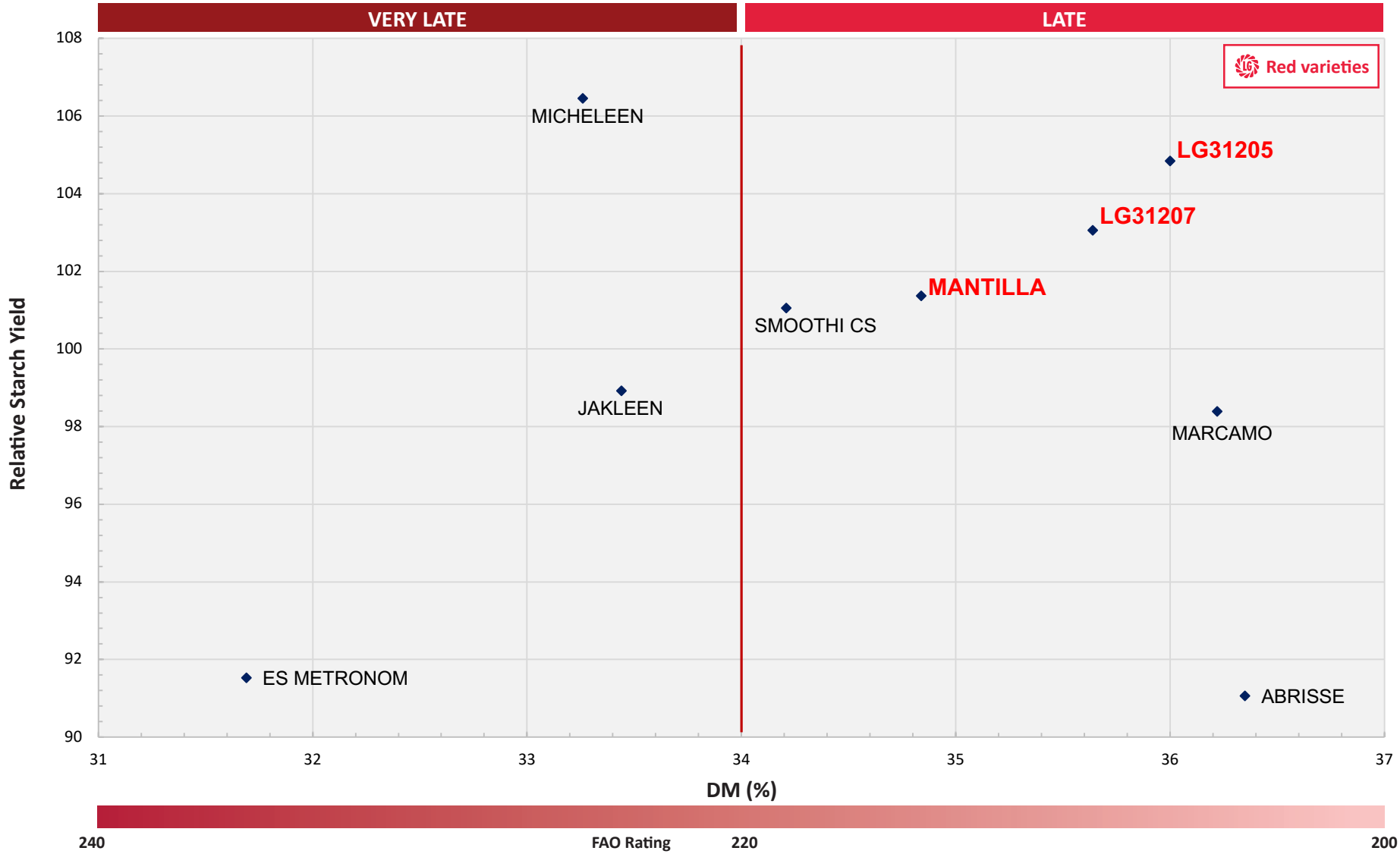


RELATIVE STARCH YIELD v DM%

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2025: Very Favourable Sites

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

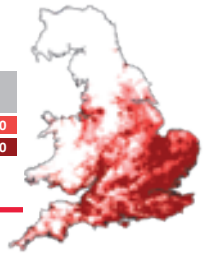


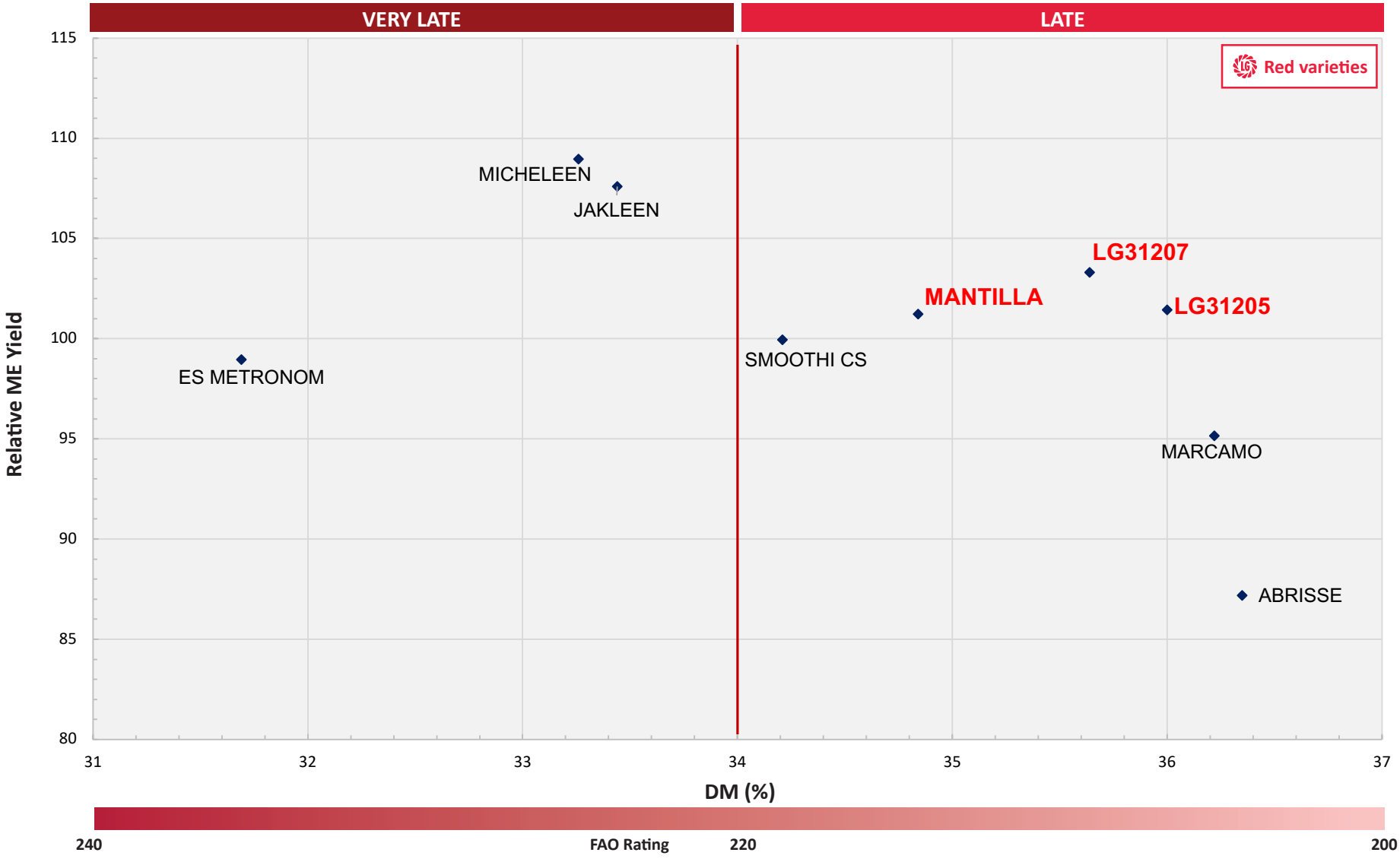


RELATIVE ME YIELD v DM%

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2025: Very Favourable Sites

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



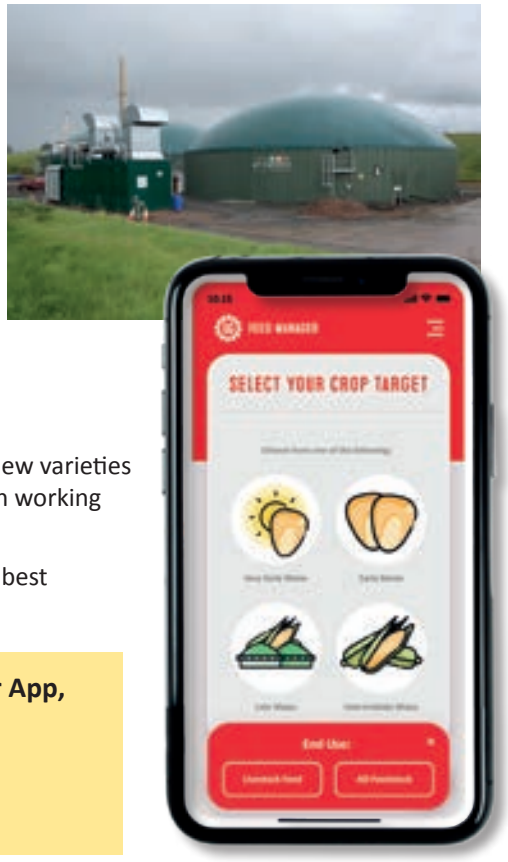


MAIZE VARIETIES FOR ANAEROBIC DIGESTION (AD)

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 and 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 have 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

Independent data on late maturing and exceptionally high yielding varieties can be found on the newly published BSPB/NIAB 'Varieties for Very Favourable Sites'. Data can be found on pages 22 to 25.

Some varieties used for AD do not appear on this list, but have been thoroughly tested in LG trials. Performance for these varieties can found in the LG AD trials charts on pages 27-29.

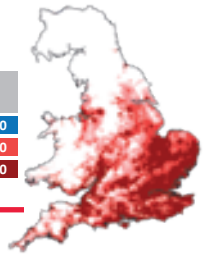
Recommended for AD

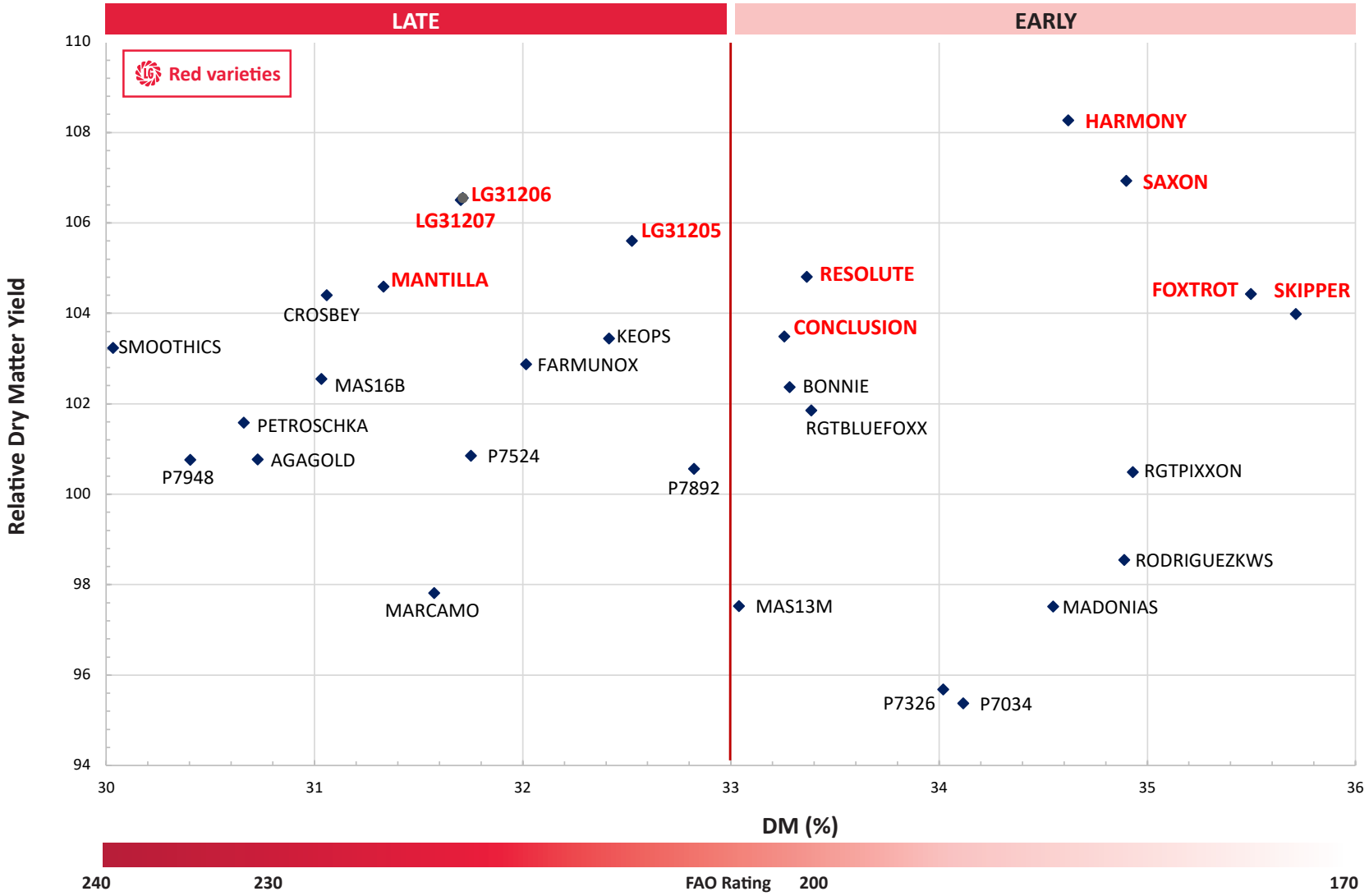
MATURITY	VARIETY	DESCRIPTION	FAO
EARLY	Skipper	Very early with high yield	170
	Foxtrot	Early with good quality	170
	Harmony NEW	Early, superb yield and excellent quality	180
	Saxon	Impressive yield and impressive quality	180
	Conclusion	Vigorous with high energy yield	190
	Resolute	Very high yielding with high energy values	190
LATE	LG31.205	High ME yield from an early harvest	200
	LG31.206	Super quality from mainstream harvest	200
	LG31.207	Very high yielding with excellent vigour	210
	Mantilla	High yielding with good agronomics	210
VERY LATE	Ashley	High yielding and adapted to lighter land	230

RELATIVE DRY MATTER YIELD v DM%

LG Variety Trials for Anaerobic Digestion (2019-23)

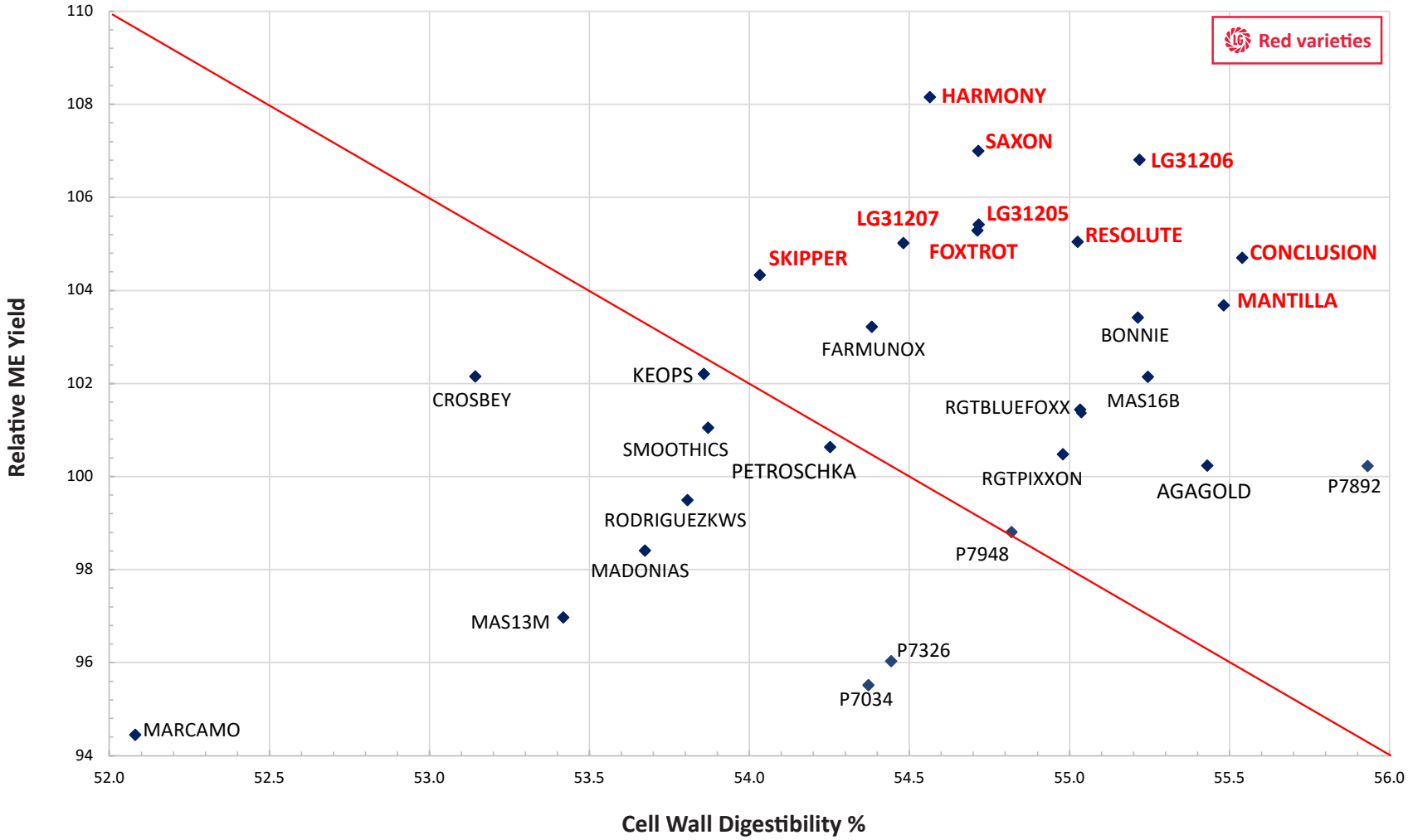
Maturity Group	FAO Range
EARLY	FAO 170-200
LATE	FAO 200-220
VERY LATE	FAO 220-250





CELL WALL DIGESTIBILITY % v ME YIELD

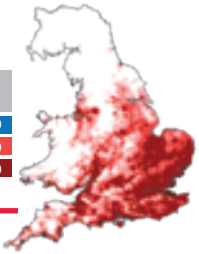
LG Variety Trials for Anaerobic Digestion (2019-23)

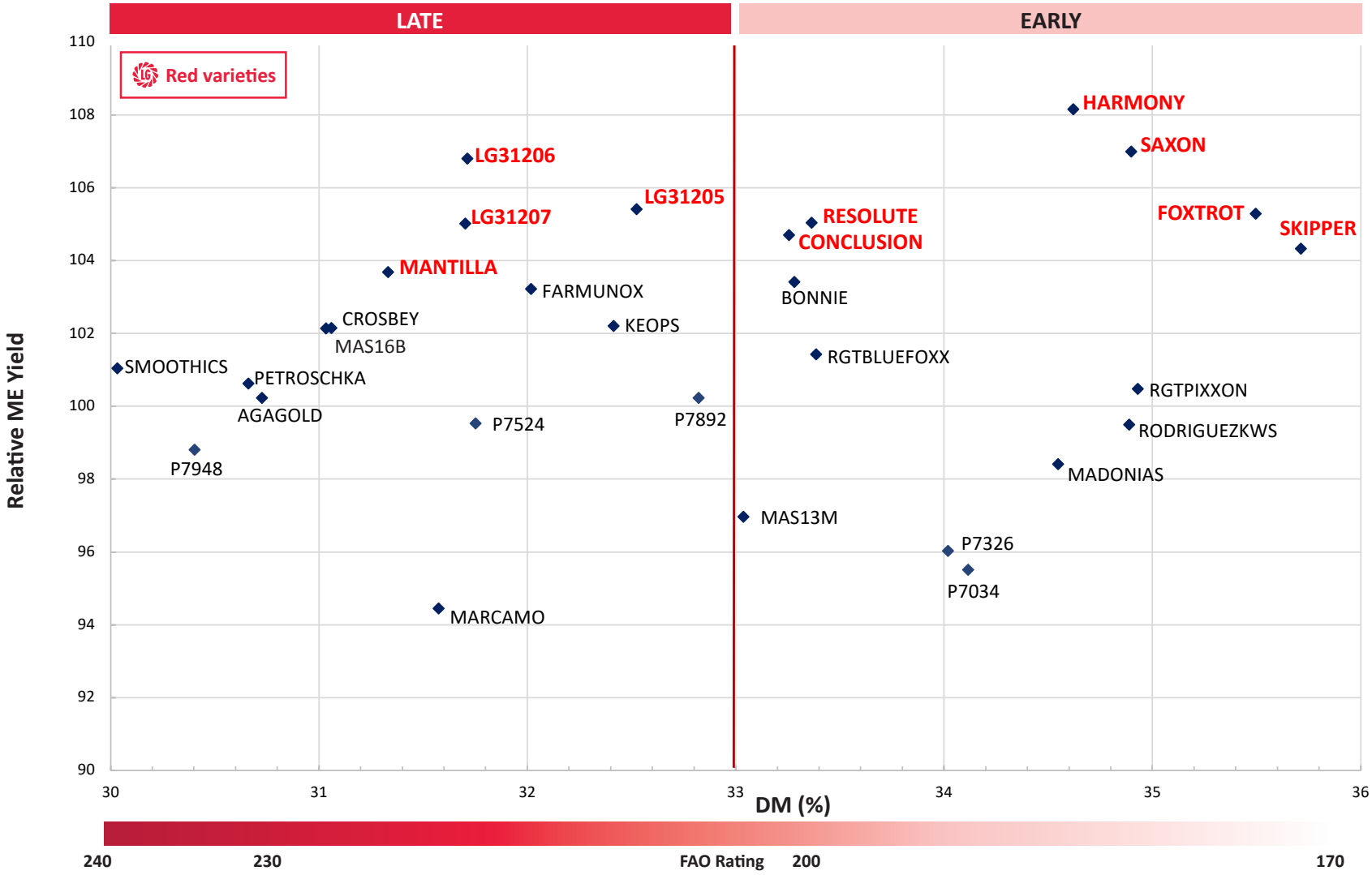


RELATIVE ENERGY (ME) YIELD v DM%

LG Variety Trials for Anaerobic Digestion (2019-23)

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





MAIZE FOR CRIMPING OR GRAIN

Growing maize for grain is an attractive cash crop option, and for arable farmers has the added benefit of breaking the cereals rotation, giving an opportunity to reduce blackgrass populations.

An adjusted combine can be used to harvest the maize at around 30% moisture content.

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: Dried grain maize is used by 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 14.0-14.5 MJ/kg DM.

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

Recommended varieties: LG31.160, Duke, 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.

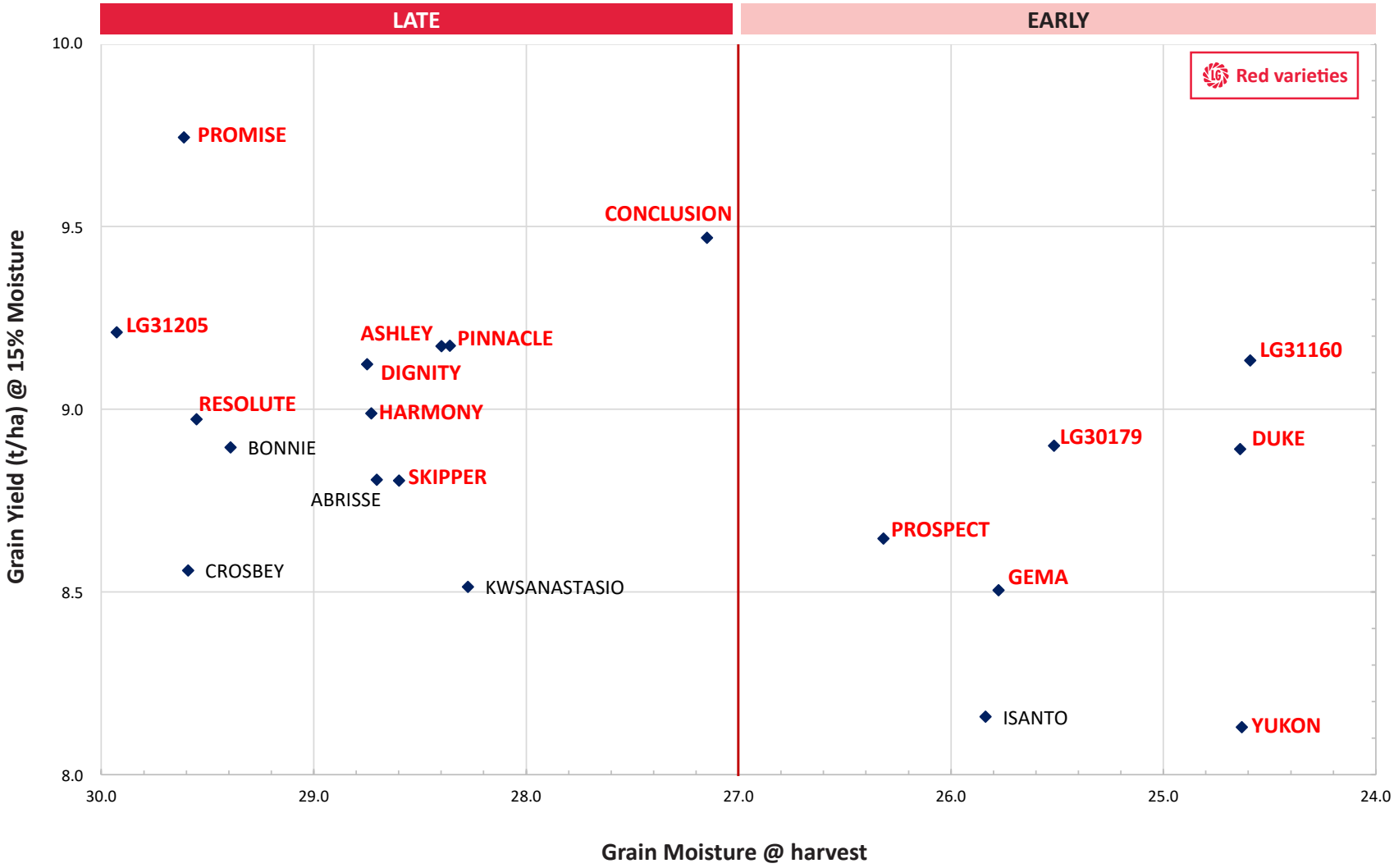
LG Grain Trials

Currently there are no official trials in the UK to test varieties for grain or crimping use. LG has established a network of three trials within recognized 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 (2021-2023) Yield adjusted to 15% Moisture Content



ESTABLISHMENT AND BIRD CONTROL

Seed Treatments

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

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 consistently reached 10°C at drilling depth for at least 4 consecutive days before drilling and check the medium term weather forecast will remain warm.

KORIT® PRO

The unique formulation on 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 growth:

- Increased rooting power, with plants developing a healthy and productive root system
- Better plant health and anchoring up to harvest
- Inclusion of manganese to aid chlorophyll formation and photosynthetic action
- Inclusion of zinc to aid protein formation, particularly beneficial if soils become cold or wet

Korit® PRO Includes Growth Promoting Rhizobacteria (PGPR)

PGPR colonise the root zone and stimulate root hair development. Through a symbiotic relationship, the bacteria increase 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.

ESTABLISHMENT AND INSECT CONTROL

Sowing Advice

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 and 4mm long and eat across the leaf veins. Plants either die or become stunted with twisted leaves.

Insect Control

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

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

Korit® FORCE

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

Successful establishment is reliant upon 4 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 between 5-8cm and not too deep in heavy soils
- Drilling into well aerated soils, maize will not thrive in compacted soils without oxygen

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 appearance of small leaf spots with a yellow halo and can lead to the entire plant dying off before 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)

Occurs immediately before harvest and 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

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**, **LG31207** and **Resolute** perform exceptionally well under the plastic covered system.

DAFM Recommended varieties for Forage Maize 2024

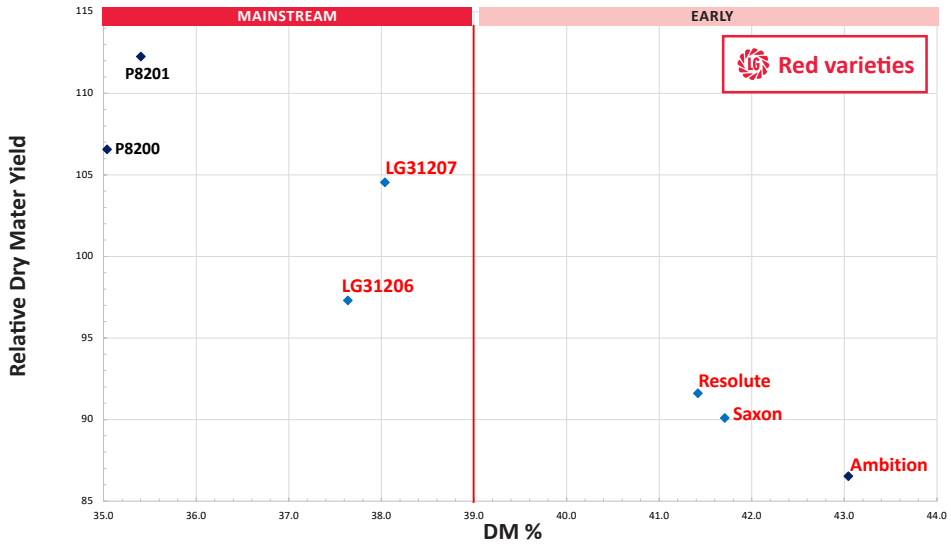
SUITABLE FOR GROWING UNDER PLASTIC COVER

				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 (t/ha)	STARCH (% at harvest)	ME YIELD (MJ/ha at harvest)	REL ME YIELD %	ME (MJ/kg DM of fresh plant at harvest)
Mean of Controls			*37.1*	*19.7*	100	5.9	*100*	30.3	234,255	*100*	11.9
EARLY	AMBITION	170	43.0	17.0	87	5.7	96	33.4	206,202	88	12.1
EARLY	SAXON*	180	41.7	17.7	90	5.5	93	31.2	212,266	91	12.0
EARLY	RESOLUTE*	190	41.4	18.0	92	5.7	96	31.6	215,485	92	12.0
MAINSTREAM	LG31207*	210	38.0	20.6	105	6.2	104	29.9	245,796	105	12.0
MAINSTREAM	SPYCI CS	210	37.7	18.7	95	5.8	97	30.9	223,461	95	12.0
MAINSTREAM	LG31206*	210	37.6	19.1	97	5.7	96	29.9	227,836	97	11.9
MAINSTREAM	P8201	230	35.4	22.1	112	6.6	112	30.0	263,849	113	11.9
MAINSTREAM	P8200	230	35.0	21.0	107	5.8	99	27.9	244,073	104	11.6

*Limited data - not yet fully recommended

DAFM Plastic Covered Trials

Relative Dry Matter Yield v DM% (2003-23)



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 (see page 37).

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 and sowing time and rates

The table below 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 whilst 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:

IPM3: 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 need to be maintained. If undersowing to meet the aims of IPM3, the grass can be destroyed post maize harvest to allow 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.

Maize Crop Growth Stage	Sowing rate	Mixture type	Variety / mixture names
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.
- By sowing a winter cover crop after maize growers can apply for the SFI action SOH4: worth £203/ha. Species such as Ryegrasses or Humbolt Forage Rye can be grazed over the winter months but cannot be harvested as a "cash crop."
- A multispecies cover crop mixture allows growers to apply for SFI action SAM2: 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 under sown with grass as described on page 36.

Humbolt Forage Rye

Humbolt has a high tillering capacity to provide good over-winter cover and spring growth 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:

160-185kg/ha for maximum production
60-70kg/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	✓	✓	✓	IPM3 - £55/Ha SOH4 - £203/Ha	June - July
LG Lift N Fix	✓	✓	✓	SOH4 - £203/Ha SAM2 - £129/Ha	Sept - Oct
Chisel Ploughing	✓	✗	✗	✗	Sept - Nov

SECOND CHOICE VARIETIES FOR LESS FAVOURABLE SITES

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2025: Less Favourable Sites

RANKED BY EARLINESS

		MATURITY				YIELD DATA		AGRONOMIC DATA					STARCH DATA			ENERGY DATA			DIGESTIBILITY	
MATURITY GROUP	VARIETY	MATURITY CLASS **	FAO RATING **	DM% (at harvest)	EARLIER/ LATER TO HARVEST (#Days +/- Ambition)	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
Mean of the year 4 & 5 varieties				*35.0*	*35.2*	*18.3*	*100*	*6.9*	*7.6*	*0.9*	*6.7*	*5.2*	*6.4*	*100*	*35.1*	*212.912*	*100*	*11.7*	*8.1*	
VERY EARLY	RGT BUXXTON NEW	11	140	38.1	10	18.0	98	6.9	7.8	0.7	5.8	3.0	6.4	99	35.4	206,648	97	11.5	7.1	2024
	RGT DUXXBURY	11	140	38.0	10	16.6	91	6.9	8.0	0.4	5.1	5.3	6.2	97	37.5	194,169	91	11.7	7.9	2018
EARLY	**AMBITION**	**9**	**170**	**35.2**	**0**	**18.1**	**99**	**7.0**	**7.9**	**0.5**	**7.0**	**6.3**	**6.3**	**99**	**34.9**	**208,101**	**98**	**11.5**	**6.9**	**2012**
	PROMISE NEW	**8**	**180**	**35.0**	**-1**	**19.4**	**106**	**7.1**	**7.1**	**1.7**	**6.7**	**2.5**	**6.4**	**100**	**33.1**	**222,558**	**105**	**11.5**	**7.5**	**2024**
	MADONIAS	8	180	34.7	-2	17.6	96	6.8	7.3	1.3	5.9	5.6	6.3	99	35.9	205,258	96	11.7	8.0	2018
	LIROYAL	8	180	34.6	-2	17.6	96	6.4	7.7	0.8	6.2	6.0	6.3	98	35.8	206,312	97	11.8	8.7	2019
	RGT PIXXON	8	180	34.4	-3	18.3	100	6.7	7.9	0.5	7.5	6.7	5.8	91	32.0	210,678	99	11.5	8.7	2022
	ES MYRDAL	7	190	34.2	-3	19.1	105	7.1	6.6	2.2	7.4	6.3	5.8	90	30.1	215,291	101	11.3	6.8	2022
	LIKEIT	7	190	33.5	-6	17.6	97	6.8	8.2	0.2	6.8	4.5	6.0	94	34.0	203,724	96	11.6	7.4	2018
LATE	LID0720C NEW	6	200	32.4	-10	19.9	109	7.2	6.7	2.2	7.9	6.3	5.8	91	29.1	221,969	104	11.1	6.3	2024
	RGT BLUEFOXX	6	200	32.1	-11	18.3	100	6.7	8.0	0.3	7.7	5.0	5.8	91	31.8	209,517	98	11.5	8.1	2023

NEW New in 2025 ** MC = Limagrain Estimation of Maturity Class * Second choice variety # Limagrain estimate of days earlier / later to harvest than Ambition, the BSPB/NIAB early control variety ~ Cell Wall Digestibility (%) minus 50

SECOND CHOICE VARIETIES FOR FAVOURABLE SITES

BSPB/NIAB Descriptive List for Forage Maize 2025: Favourable Sites

RANKED BY EARLINESS

		MATURITY				YIELD DATA		AGRONOMIC DATA					STARCH DATA			ENERGY DATA			DIGESTIBILITY	
MATURITY GROUP	VARIETY	MATURITY CLASS **	FAO RATING **	DM% (at harvest)	EARLIER/ LATER TO HARVEST (# Days +/- Ambition)	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
Mean of the 4 & 5 year varieties				*34.2*	*35.4*	*18.5*	*100*	*6.9*	*7.7*	*0.9*	*7.0*	*5.6*	*6.2*	*100*	*33.5*	*215,175*	*100*	*11.6*	*8.1*	
VERY EARLY	KWS LETO NEW	12	140	38.5	11	17.3	93	6.6	7.9	0.6	4.1	5.0	6.6	106	38.2	199,774	93	11.6	5.9	2024
	RGT DUXXBURY	11	150	37.6	8	17.1	92	6.8	8.1	0.3	5.7	5.3	6.2	100	36.3	199,511	93	11.7	7.9	2018
	RGT BUXXTON NEW	11	150	37.1	6	17.9	97	6.7	8.1	0.2	6.4	3.0	6.4	103	35.7	208,123	97	11.6	7.4	2024
	GEMA	**11**	**150**	**36.9**	**5**	**17.6**	**95**	**6.7**	**7.3**	**1.4**	**6.2**	**6.1**	**6.6**	**107**	**37.6**	**206,218**	**96**	**11.7**	**7.5**	**2021**
	AMBITION	**9**	**170**	**35.4**	**0**	**18.4**	**99**	**7.1**	**8.1**	**0.3**	**6.9**	**6.3**	**6.4**	**103**	**34.9**	**212,704**	**99**	**11.6**	**7.1**	**2012**
EARLY	RGT OXXGOOD	8	180	35.0	-1	17.9	97	6.7	7.6	1.0	6.5	6.3	6.2	100	34.6	208,866	97	11.7	8.2	2016
	RGT PIXXON	8	180	35.0	-1	18.4	99	6.7	7.8	0.7	7.4	6.7	5.9	94	31.9	213,013	99	11.6	8.8	2022
	MADONIAS	8	180	34.3	-4	17.8	96	6.7	7.7	0.8	6.1	5.6	6.4	103	35.9	209,524	97	11.8	8.4	2018
	LIROYAL	8	180	34.2	-4	17.6	95	6.2	7.8	0.7	6.4	6.0	6.2	100	35.3	207,190	96	11.8	9.0	2019
	ABILITY	8	180	33.5	-7	18.6	101	7.1	8.0	0.4	7.4	5.6	5.9	95	31.8	216,033	100	11.6	8.7	2020
	RGT EASIXX	8	180	33.4	-7	18.8	101	6.5	7.9	0.6	7.4	5.3	5.8	94	31.1	213,413	99	11.4	7.6	2023
	ES MYRDAL	8	180	33.4	-7	19.2	104	7.1	7.0	1.7	7.3	6.3	5.6	90	29.1	216,686	101	11.3	7.2	2022
	RGT BLUEFOXX	8	180	33.3	-7	18.7	101	6.5	8.0	0.4	7.6	5.0	5.8	94	31.2	215,007	100	11.5	8.6	2023
	LIKEIT	8	180	33.3	-7	18.0	97	6.9	8.0	0.3	6.9	4.5	5.9	94	32.7	207,679	97	11.6	7.9	2018
	GLENOE	7	190	32.7	-10	18.4	99	6.8	8.0	0.4	7.6	4.6	5.2	84	28.3	206,440	96	11.2	7.0	2023
	ABRISSE	7	190	32.3	-11	17.9	97	5.9	7.9	0.5	7.3	8.2	5.5	89	30.9	205,528	96	11.5	8.5	2019
	LID0720C NEW	7	190	32.3	-11	19.8	107	7.6	6.3	2.7	7.5	6.3	5.1	83	25.9	217,780	101	11.0	6.2	2024
LATE	MARCAMO	6	210	31.2	-15	17.9	97	6.2	4.9	4.6	6.4	7.2	5.3	85	29.4	199,615	93	11.1	5.5	2019
	CATHY	6	210	31.2	-15	18.9	102	7.1	7.8	0.7	7.9	5.3	5.4	87	28.7	215,783	100	11.4	8.2	2015
	RGT MUXXEAL NEW	3	230	29.6	-20	19.5	105	6.8	7.0	1.8	8.5	5.2	5.0	81	25.8	219,727	102	11.2	8.2	2024

NEW New in 2025 * MC = Limagrain Estimation of Maturity Class # Limagrain estimate of days earlier / later to harvest than Ambition, the BSPB/NIAB control variety ~ Cell Wall Digestibility (%) minus 50

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