

Forage and biogas maize descriptive lists updated

The British Society of Plant Breeders (BSPB) has issued updated forage maize and biogas maize descriptive lists for 2017. The descriptive lists compare major maize varieties in the UK marketplace across the key growing locations of the UK. Comparison between the varieties is made on crop dry matter (DM), crop yield, quality characteristics and agronomic data such as lodging.

The dataset incorporates five years of trials and is divided into two lists – favourable and less favourable.

The favourable list is for growers who are in good growing locations but for certain reasons they need to find a balance between maturity and yield.

The less favourable list is for growers whose major concern is growing a crop to reach acceptable maturity by a given date. It is important that you identify which list is most suitable for your situation.



2017 Descriptive Lists

Nine new, first choice varieties have been added to the forage maize descriptive lists. NIAB TAG's forage crop specialist Dr Joanna Matthews said: "The nine new varieties offer an excellent range of maturity for farmers within favourable sites to select from."

Alongside these, there 14 new varieties on the forage maize for anaerobic digestion descriptive lists.

New first choice varieties for favourable sites

The new additions include a cluster of potentially high-yielding varieties including Kompetens, LG30 209, Spyci CS, Aurelius KWS, Sunshinos and SY Feeditop which offer yields in excess of 17.6 tonnes (t) dry matter (DM)/ha. All the new varieties have excellent quality characteristics with metabolisable energy (ME) ranging from 11.8 to 11.47 megajoules (MJ)/kg DM.

New first choice varieties for less-favourable sites

Dr Matthews highlights the wide diversity in maturity offered by Reason, Aurelius KWS, SY NordicStar and Sunshinos, the four varieties added to the less-favourable descriptive list. The new varieties are good all-rounders with yield potentials of between 16.6 and 17.2t DM/ha, combined with reasonable starch and ME yields.

Biogas maize

The 2017 Forage Maize for Anaerobic Digestion (AD) descriptive lists for favourable sites have 14 new listings, whereas the less-favourable sites has ten new varieties. All varieties on the 2017 lists have been nominated by the plant breeders and are suitable for biogas producers growing and using the crop as a feedstock.

This year, for the first time, growers will benefit from the inclusion of variety resistance ratings to maize eyespot, a disease which can severely affect yields due to early die-back.

The BSPB 2017 'Forage Maize' and 'Forage Maize for AD' Descriptive Lists are available to download [online](#)