MAIZE HARVESTING Plan ahead for good maize silage



WHEN IS THE RIGHT HARVEST TIME?

?

High forage quality drives intake and in turn, this drives production. Maize silage should be harvested when the whole plant is at about $33 \pm 2\%$ dry matter. Depending on the conditions, maize plants will dry down at a rate of about 0.5 percentage units per day (clearly less if raining).

Harvesting maize silage that is too wet (typically < 28% DM) results in excessive fermentation that often produces high concentrations of total silage acids and may result in excessive seepage losses. Specifically, these wet silages are often characterised by high concentrations of acetic and butyric acid produced from "wild" fermentations.

A common problem when feeding large quantities of wet maize silage is a reduction in DM intake because of the high acid content.

In contrast, extremely dry maize silage (> 40% DM) should be avoided because the low moisture restricts fermentation and this material is more difficult to pack which often leads to poor aerobic stability.

Kernel processing is key, ideally a kernel should be broken into 4 pieces, however a more conventional split down the middle is acceptable, poor kernel processing will result in poor starch digestibility and result in waste. To avoid this, simply take a 1 litre cup full of silage, spread it over a clean surface to check the processing quality.

Call 0800 756 2787 www.nwfagriculture.co.uk

NWF SILA-MAIZE Preserve forage stocks



NWF Sila-Maize contains quick-acting bacteria and enzymes that convert valuable crop carbohydrates into energy for milk production. The inoculant is a premixture of technological additives containing:

Fermentation starter

Pentosaceus Pediococcus to deliver optimum pH range of 7 to 5 and to help dominate spoilage organisms.

Fermentation finisher

Lactobacillus Plantarum to deliver optimum pH range of 5.5 to 4 and to ensure full fermentation and s table silage

Enzymes

FEATURES

- Designed for UK weather and UK forages
- Rapid pH drop to inhibit growth of spoilage bacteria
- Lactobacillus brevis for improved palatability
- Exclusive lactic acid mix
- Microbial stimulants



BENEFITS

- Improved palatability
- Improved yields (Parfitt, 2013)
- Stable silage with minimum nutrient losses
- More active bacteria once re-hydrated

NWF Sila-Maize is supplied in 150g pots, each treating 50 tonnes of silage. For high dry matter, the concentration can be increased to suit requirements.

FREE Forage Analysis Service Available for NWF Customers

Order online or call 0800 756 2787



 \checkmark