



Spring Cereals

2026

Cornwall's Independent Seed Processor and Merchant

Est. 1980

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PLANNING FOR PROFIT: KEY FACTORS TO MAXIMISE YOUR MAIZE CROP THIS SPRING

W

ith recent financial pressures within the livestock and arable sectors, producing quality cost effective forage needs to be planned well in advance to make the most out of your farm's soils. Here are some thought-provoking topics to consider when planning this spring's Maize crop establishment.

Market:

What market are you growing for? Solid "Cheese", liquid "Milk", Beef, or for Energy. All four markets have a slightly different requirement when it comes to making the best silage for maximum output and your choice of variety will play huge part in whether you see the maximum return on your maize silage investment.

Site:

Where are you planting your maize crop? Altitude, aspect and exposure will all play a major factor in whether a maize crop is successful or not. Again, choosing the best variety to play to the sites advantages is key but sometimes thinking outside of the box approach can also play a major factor. Exposed sites which can be prone to lodging can be mitigated by something as simple as reducing seed rates slightly and ensuring cultivation depth provides plenty of tilth for the maize plant to anchor itself into.

Nutrient Requirements:

Assessing the nutrient requirements of your soil is imperative to make any crop profitable. A successful maize crop can produce fresh weight yields of between 40-60tons/ha but can only do so if supplied with enough nourishment to facilitate optimum cell division. Doing something as simple as a basic soil test on land destined for maize gives you the framework to plan lime, dung, slurry and manufactured fertiliser. Doing the same as last year will not give you the best economic or productive output, two years are very rarely the same.

“Doing the same as last year won't deliver the best economic or productive output- two years are very rarely the same.”

Soil Conditions:

The conditions in which you place your Maize seed, I would argue, plays the largest role in whether or not your seed meets its full potential. Temperature, moisture and access to essential nutrients all play major roles in the seeds' ability to break the soil surface quickly and without being inhibited by external stresses. Taking the time to assess soil conditions and its nutrient requirements before drilling will make a huge difference to a crop's productivity and its subsequent profitability.

Variety Choice:

When choosing the variety you are going to plant, it is important to take into consideration what market is it going to service: Cheese, liquid milk, Beef, or Energy. Many varieties will boast high DM and starch which are key components for high butterfat levels in milk destined for cheese production. Others will have better cell wall digestibility aiding production volume of milk from each kg of maize an animal eats. Choose your maize seed based on your end market not on glossy advertisements.

Placement and Foliar Fertiliser:

Placement fertiliser has continued to prove it is worth both in terms of economic and yield output vs untreated crops. It has however moved on from the days of putting 1 cwt of DAP down the spout at drilling and moved more towards lower volume specialty fertiliser which provides much better nutrient use efficiency at a saving of as much as £20/ha against DAP.



Summary:

In summary when planning your 2026 maize crop think: Market, Site and Soil when making your variety and fertiliser choices. For more information on growing a successful maize crop please call the South West Seeds office.

T: 01208 881198
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“Taking time to assess soil conditions before drilling can make a huge difference to yield and overall profitability.”

2026 Maize Varieties

Ultra Early Varieties

ES Mrydal

- Suits all soil types, performed well in drought conditions last year.
- Best resistance to smut and has a high eyespot resistance, keeping the crop clean until harvest.
- Long harvest window for an earlier maturing variety.

Augustus

- Leading DM yield in its segment - (94%) across all marginal sites.
- Rapid early vigour (6.9) get crop established quickly on more challenging sites.
- Excellent starch (38%).
- Great ME content (11.91 MJ/kg DM) to boost animal performance.

Jardinero

- Strong ultra early yield performance (17.7 t/ha DM).
- Fabulous starch content (36.1%) highly suited to lower maize inclusion rates.
- No compromise short season leader.
- Excellent flexibility for late sowing and early harvest to counter variable seasonal conditions.
- Strong early vigour.

Early Varieties

Autens

- Stable yield performance (18.1 t/ha DM).
- Faster dry down with great standing power.
- Outstanding early vigour (7.5) on all soil types.
- High starch content (34.3%).
- Excellent energy content (11.74 MJ/kg DM.)
- Provides an excellent early harvest option on lighter land.

ES Constance

- Top performing variety in maturity group 8.
- Ideal for early grain harvest and crimped maize production.
- Enhanced cell wall digestibility.
- Excellent cob ripeness with prolonged plant greenness.

Emeleen D45

- Fast vigorous early growth.
- Dependable sturdy crop with extended harvest flexibility.
- Consistent strong yield performance across a wide range of soil types but is particularly suited to lighter soils.

Prospect

- Excellent feed quality, combining high starch content with exceptional cell wall digestibility that delivers an energy dense forage, improving both efficiency and output in the ration.
- Better than average early vigour, standing power and one of the best ratings for Eyespot tolerance.
- Very early harvest and high yields that won't disappoint.

Other varieties are also available, please call the office to discuss.

Spring Barley 2026



CONSISTENT ON-FARM PERFORMANCE

Laureate

Laureate delivers consistently high treated yields across all soil types, though its specific weight is lower than some competing varieties, and it offers short straw with good brackling resistance but modest lodging strength. With strong disease resistance and no major weaknesses, it remains a reliable option approved for both malt distilling and brewing.

Yield UK	Disease Resistance				Straw Length PGR
102	Mildew 9	Brown Rust 5	Rhynchosporium 7	Net blotch 8	70

Skyway

This spring barley variety is among the highest yielding on the UK Recommended List. It is a malting variety with full MBC approval for brewing, high resistance to mildew and a good resistance to net blotch and Rhynchosporium. Straw length is classed as medium with medium-high resistance to lodging and brackling. Specific weight of 69.9 which is high.

Yield UK	Disease Resistance				Straw Length PGR
101	Mildew 8	Brown Rust 4	Rhynchosporium 7	Net blotch 6	74

Belter

High yielding malting variety with potential for brewing and malt distilling. Belter has a parentage cross with Laureate. Good disease resistance across the board. Straw length is slightly shorter than Laureate but Belter does have a better resistance to lodging and brackling and a higher specific weight at 68.2.

Yield UK	Disease Resistance				Straw Length PGR
103	Mildew 8	Brown Rust 5	Rhynchosporium 6	Net blotch 6	68

Westminster

Strong strawed feed variety. High resistance to all diseases. With a high lodging and brackling resistance. Reliable variety with history of solid performance.

Yield UK	Disease Resistance				Straw Length PGR
102	Mildew 6	Brown Rust 7	Rhynchosporium 5	Net blotch 6	84

LG Diablo

High-yielding feed barley performing close to Laureate in Agrii trials, with better specific weight. Limited uptake due to Laureate's dominance. Medium height with stiffer straw, later maturity, and strong disease resistance supporting high untreated yields.

Yield UK	Disease Resistance				Straw Length PGR
102	Mildew 6	Brown Rust 7	Rhynchosporium 5	Net blotch 6	71

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LG DIABLO SPRING BARLEY

- Fully Approved by the MBC for Distilling & Brewing
- Good Disease Resistance
- Stiff Straw

Scan for more!



lgseeds.co.uk/lg-diablo

Limagrain

Spring Oats 2026

Mascani

Mascani is the most commonly cultivated winter oat variety across the UK and has firmly established itself as the preferred choice among millers and farmers alike. This variety features a sturdy straw structure, offering outstanding resistance to mildew and commendable protection against crown rust.

With its remarkably high kernel content, excellent specific weight, sizeable grains and minimal screening losses, Mascani continues to be the top-quality milling variety of choice.

Please note: Mascani is a winter oat variety and should only be drilled up to the end of February.

Yield UK	Disease Resistance		Straw Length w/o PGR
95	Mildew 7	Crown Rust 9	125

Merlin

Merlin is a new spring oat variety offering exceptional yield, strong agronomic performance and robust disease resistance across all UK regions. Suitable for both organic and conventional systems, it produces high-quality oats with very low screenings. As a tall, well-standing variety with a specific weight comfortably above the 50 kg/hl milling requirement, Merlin appeals to both growers and millers.

Yield UK	Disease Resistance		Straw Length w/o PGR
103	Mildew 8	Crown Rust 4	106

WPB Isabel

WPB Isabel, from the breeders behind WPB Elyann, has become the UK's most widely planted spring oat in 2023-24. It delivers strong on-farm performance with high yields, excellent kernel content, good specific weight and low screenings, making it attractive to both growers and mills. Despite being a taller plant, it has very stiff straw and solid disease resistance, giving it reliable field performance across contrasting seasons.

Yield UK	Disease Resistance		Straw Length w/o PGR
100	Mildew 5	Crown Rust 5	110

Other Spring Seed is available!

Please contact the office for more details on the following:

Peas, Beans, Linseed, Rye and Triticale.



Soars above the rest

Robust and reliable with a high yield, the sky is the limit with Merlin.

Delivering an unrivalled combination of yield, agronomic features and disease resistance, Merlin is an outstanding all-round spring oat that offers growers flexibility and millers confidence.



Get in touch with your local merchant for more information

Seed Treatments & Testing

Seed Treatments

Manganese

- Recommended if the field is deficient in Manganese.
- Provides instant supply to encourage seedling growth.
- Monitor after emergence and apply a foliar application if necessary to maintain plant growth.

Super Crop

- Micro-nutrient fertiliser.
- Notable increase of yield in our own trials and customer experiences.
- Helps produce a vigorous, cleaner crop with increased bushel weight and promotes root growth and root mass for faster establishment.
- Very cost effective- approximately £3 per acre.

Redigo Pro

- Ensures sound establishment in all varieties of wheat and barley.
- Active substances: prothioconazole and tebuconazole.
- Seed treatment for the control of the principal seed-borne diseases and soil-borne bunt in winter and spring wheat, winter and spring barley, winter and spring oats, durum wheat, rye and triticale.
- Controls the following diseases: Leaf Stripe, Ergot (reduced Germination), Loose Smut, Seed-borne net blotch, Covered Smut, Blue Mould and Microdochium-nivale.

Vibrance Duo

- Best technical product against seed and soil borne diseases.
- Improves crop establishment and competitiveness.
- Increased yields and plant biomass.

Seed Testing

We offer a range of seed testing services to assess viability and quality. The **Tetrazolium Germination Test** provides quick results within 2–3 days and is DEFRA-approved.

For a more comprehensive analysis, a full grown germination test (results in 7–10 days) includes **TGW** and optional **vigour testing**. Vigour tests complement germination results, offering deeper insight into seed performance. TGW (Thousand Grain Weight) aids sowing calibration, and moisture tests are available in-house, including moisture meter calibration or replacement.

We also conduct seed-borne **disease tests** for cereals and offer germination, moisture, TGW, and disease testing packages for **peas and beans**. Contact us for full details.

WANTED

CONTRACT GROWERS FOR THE FOLLOWING CROPS:



Peas

Beans

Triticale

Organic Wheat

Organic Oats

Organic Barley



Join our seed growers club and enjoy exclusive benefits, offers, and cost savings on our products.

Call or email us today!

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Arable Silage Mixtures

We produce high-quality arable silage blends using a mixture of cereals, peas and vetch. Oats or barley are the most commonly used cereal components. Peas provide a valuable source of home-grown protein and, as legumes, fix atmospheric nitrogen, reducing the need for applied fertiliser. This delivers clear environmental and financial benefits.

Vetch further enhances protein levels and is highly palatable to livestock. Its deep-rooting nature makes it particularly valuable in dry years, helping maintain performance in arable silage mixtures during periods of drought.

Standard Arable Silage Mixtures:

60% Barley / 40% Pea

40% Barley / 60% Pea

60% Barley / 30% Pea / 10% Vetch

60% Oat / 40% Pea

40% Oat / 60% Pea

60% Oat / 30% Pea / 10% Vetch

30% Barley / 30% Oat / 40% Pea

Bespoke mixtures are available on request.

These mixtures may be sown on their own or undersown with grass mixtures to aid the establishment of a new ley.

Sowing & Establishment:

Sowing window: Late March to mid-April

Seed rate: 75–80 kg per acre when sown alone

50–60 kg per acre when undersown

Growing period:

- 13–16 weeks when sown alone
- 10–12 weeks when undersown

Undersowing arable silage with grass allows a new grass crop to establish while the silage crop is growing. Once the arable silage is harvested, the grass is already established and coming through. The arable silage mixture acts as a natural weed suppressant and effectively nurses the grass or grass/clover mix through its early growth stages, supporting strong and even establishment.



Supplementary Bird Feed (AB12/AHW2)

This option is designed to support farmland birds by providing a consistent supply of seed throughout the winter and into mid-spring. Seed is spread on the ground at several feeding locations to ensure good access for a range of species.

The aim is to help seed-eating birds during key pressure periods:

- Late winter, when natural seed sources are scarce (often referred to as the “hungry gap”).
- Early spring, as birds enter the breeding season and energy demands increase.

A winter supplementary feeding mix must be used and must include:

- Cereals (excluding maize), making up no more than 70% of the total mix by weight.
- Small non-cereal seeds, making up at least 30% of the total mix by weight.
- No single species may account for more than 50% of the non-cereal portion.

A written feeding diary must be kept, recording:

- The feed mixture used, including the weights of cereal and non-cereal components and the cost.
- Feeding dates.
- Feeding method (ground spreading or hopper feeding).
- Quantities fed.
- Locations of feeding sites.

We can prepare these supplementary bird feed mixtures for you and supply them in 25kg or 500kg bags, depending on your requirements. Please contact us for current prices and availability.



Why consider Farm Saved Seed?

We have been cleaning and dressing Farm Saved Seed for farmers all over the West Country since 1980. We run a fleet of up to date, well maintained machines of differing sizes and capacities, so we can take on any job, big or small.

We pride ourselves on having built a reputation for quality, reliability and a thoroughly professional approach. We clean and dress seed with the most advanced and modern applications; and we can carry out a range of tests to establish germination rates and detect and identify disease.

We also supply a range of equipment specially chosen for quality and value and designed to help farmers handle, store, dry and monitor the condition of their cereal crops.

We can clean and dress all seed including:

✓ Cereals ✓ Hemp ✓ Oil Seed Rape ✓ Peas ✓ Beans ✓ Linseed ✓ Wildflowers ✓ Quinoa

Our treatments include:

✓ Super Crop ✓ Manganese ✓ Vibrance Duo ✓ Single Purpose

3 reasons to save your seed

Farm Saved Seed Benefits

- Provides control and ensures seed availability on the farm.
- Accounts for over 1.6 million hectares of the UK's cereal seed.



Cost Advantages

- Royalty fees for processing own seed are half those of certified seed.
- Saves approximately £129* per tonne compared to buying certified seed.
- Improves cash flow by avoiding certified seed purchases.

Seed Processing and Testing

- Offers high-quality seed treatments and processing for better seed samples.
- Includes germination and vigour testing for optimal crop starts.
- Exemption from royalties if growing less than 44 acres of combinable crops annually.

How Much Can I Save?

This year you could save approximately **£129 per tonne*** off the cost of your seed by processing your own Farm Saved Seed.

See below for a typical calculation per tonne of Spring Barley:

	Farm Saved Seed	Certified Seed	Savings
Base cost Per tonne	£155.00	£340.00	£204.00
Royalty per tonne	£63.10	£115	£49.67
Cleaning Cost per tonne	£143.00		-£143.00
Delivery		£35.00	£35.00
Total Per tonne	£361.10	£490	£129

These figures are based on price of 5-10 tonnes single purpose dressed

**Prices quoted as of 25th November 2025 and will vary subject to the actual grain price. Mobile cleaning charge estimated at the time of going to press. Royalties BSPB agreed values.*



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CLEANING
TODAY!**

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NOW**

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