

PRESS RELEASE

4th September 2017

2018 Forage Maize and Biogas Maize Descriptive Lists issued by BSPB

Six new first-choice varieties have been added to the British Society of Plant Breeder's 2018 Forage Maize Descriptive Lists (DL) issued today, alongside nine new varieties on the Forage Maize for Anaerobic Digestion DLs.

The varieties **LG31211** and **Gatsby** from Limagrain, **Autens KWS** from KWS, **Bonnie** and **Absalon** from Grainseed and **Belami CS** from Caussade Semences have been added to the Favourable Sites DL. Autens KWS, Bonnie, Gatsby, Absalon and Belami CS were also added as first choice varieties to the Less Favourable DL, aimed at 'marginal' growing conditions.

NIAB TAG's forage crop specialist Dr Joanna Matthews believes all forage maize growers will benefit from the new additions. "They offer outstanding yield potential, ranging from 17.8 up to 18.4 t DM/ha on the DL for favourable sites which, in combination with a highly digestible ensilagable product, are valuable assets for livestock enterprises."

Top of the DL for dry matter yield LG31211 is a later maturing variety for favourable sites, combining excellent yield potential (18.4 t DM/ha) with a highly digestible cell wall (CWD) score of 59.3% to create a high quality feedstuff. Dr Matthews explains that CWD provides an indication of the quality of the leaf and stem material, which usually constitutes 45-55% of the ensilaged material. "The higher the quality of this material coupled with the starch from the cobs will drive the energy content of the feed deriving a higher metabolisable energy value."

Gatsby is a good all-rounder with excellent yields for its maturity in all growing conditions, producing high metabolisable energy silage with good standing power scores. Autens KWS is suitable for both favourable and less favourable sites, combining great yield potential for its maturity. "It has a high starch content, which, when combined with its yield, creates one of the highest yielding good starch-rich feedstuff per hectare on the DL," says Dr Matthews.

Bonnie is suitable for sowing in a broad range of growing conditions and is listed as a first choice variety on the favourable and less favourable lists. "The variety combines a great yield potential with a highly digestible stover which is reflected in one of the highest ME yields on the DL at 208,000 MJ/ha. A high ME value has a higher rate of breakdown within the rumen. Passage time is then higher therefore potentially increasing dry matter intake and animal production levels," says Dr Matthews.

Absalon features high yield with good starch levels which, when combined with its excellent cell wall digestibility, creates high yielding quality forage for all growing conditions. Belami CS is a later maturing variety on the favourable and less favourable lists. It combines a suite of desirable characters, including high yield potential and good starch levels, to produce a highly digestible feedstuff.

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BSPB technical manager Jeremy Widdowson says that, with the pressures of sustaining farming enterprises, it is vital to exploit the genetic potential of the new forage maize cultivars.

“The BSPB Descriptive list trialling system encompasses a range of sites to reflect UK growing conditions. The differing growth potential of these sites informs the information in the favourable and less favourable lists to provide robust data for the farmers. Less favourable sites are deemed to be in more marginal growing conditions, however careful varietal selection can still derive excellent results,” says Mr Widdowson.

Biogas Maize

The 2018 Forage Maize for Anaerobic Digestion (AD) Descriptive List for favourable sites has 34 varieties, with nine new listings of **GL3121** and **Gatsby** from Limagrain, **Bonnie**, **Absalon** and **ES Atlantide** from Grainseed, **Babexx** from RAGT, **MAS 13M** from Maisadour Semences, **Codigreen** and **Emmerson** from DLF.

The AD DL for Less Favourable sites also includes nine new varieties; Emmerson, Bonnie, Gatsby, ES Atlantide, Absalon, MAS 13M, and Codigreen plus **Tiberio** and **Konsulixx** from RAGT. Nine varieties have been dropped from the DL, leaving 27 in total.

All varieties on the 2018 Lists have been nominated by the plant breeders and are suitable for biogas producers growing and using the crop as a feedstock. The DL aims to aid variety selection with producers checking energy output in the form of metabolisable energy (ME), a helpful guide to potential quality, and other traits such as plant digestibility and starch level.

The BSPB 2018 ‘Forage Maize’ and ‘Forage Maize for AD’ Descriptive Lists are available to download from the [BSPB](#) and [NIAB](#) websites.

Ends

Attachments

BSPB Forage Maize 2018 Descriptive List (PDF) including:

1. **First** Choice Varieties for **Favourable** Sites;
2. **Second** Choice Varieties for **Favourable** Sites;
3. **First** Choice Varieties for Less **Favourable** Sites;
4. **Second** Choice Varieties for Less **Favourable** Sites.

BSPB Forage Maize for Anaerobic Digestion 2018 Descriptive List (PDF) including:

1. Forage Maize Varieties for Anaerobic Digestion for **Favourable** sites
2. Forage Maize Varieties for Anaerobic Digestion for **Less Favourable** sites

Full online link to BSPB Forage Maize 2018 Descriptive List

BSPB website

http://www.plantbreedingmatters.com/sg_userfiles/BSPB_2018_Forage_Maize_and_AD_Descriptive_Lists.pdf

NIAB website

PDF version - http://www.niab.com/uploads/files/BSPB_2018_Forage_Maize_Descriptive_Lists_+_AD.pdf

XLS version - http://www.niab.com/uploads/files/BSPB_2018_Forage_Maize_Descriptive_Lists_+_AD.xls

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Notes to editors

- BSPB is the representative organisation for plant breeders in the UK.
- The BSPB Forage Maize Crop Group organises independent Descriptive List testing for forage maize varieties.
- Forage maize varieties are tested independently for three years (six locations in Year 1 and 2 and nine locations in Year 3) before addition to the Descriptive List. The trial work is carried out by NIAB and plant breeders under contract to BSPB.
- Trials are grown to standard protocols which are reviewed annually to ensure that they are relevant to the industry. All trials are independently inspected to ensure compliance with protocol and high standards of trialling and the data are independently verified and analysed by NIAB.
- The varieties tabulated on the AD DL are forage maize varieties that the breeders have nominated as having potential suitability for AD use. The List may not represent the full range of forage maize or biogas varieties that are available for the market.

Further information from

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