

**Agricultural Seeds – Grass & Clover – Maize – Fodder Crops – Forage Planning – Ensiling Products - Organic Seeds - Stewardship – Soil Management – Green Manure – Game Cover – Amenity Grass**



## Grass - Early Management is Critical to Success

A pasture can be ruined in the first months after sowing. Establishing pasture should be inspected weekly for pests, and potentially challenging weeds. Grazing management options should be planned to ensure successful establishment of all the species and minimum soil damage. If it was sown in dry conditions, it may benefit from another rolling. This normally does little damage and a lot of good. ***The paragraphs on the next page cover some of the key issues.***



3 x Rodriguez Cobs v 3 x Ambition

## RODRIGUEZ Early Quality Maize – Total Reliability

Its been a very challenging season for maize; in some areas of the UK probably the worst ever. The advantage has been the high selection pressure in our variety trials. The star performer looks like it will be **Rodriguez**, an ultra-stable, single cross variety, ideally suited to silage and grain. First recognised by Field Options in 2012 as a replacement for Lapriora, with which it shares the male hybrid line. **Rodriguez** is showing similar stability, perfect pollination under stress, slightly earlier ripening and much higher yield. It has been added to both favourable and marginal descriptive lists as a 1<sup>st</sup> choice variety.



## VANDIAMOND - The UK's Highest Yielding Maize Variety

Bred by Von Moreau in Germany, **Vandiamond** tops the new 2016 maize list for favourable sites. It has excellent vigour and produces impressive big plants which combine high starch yield with very good fibre digestibility. It has the highest dry matter yield and also highest energy yield of all varieties. **Vandiamond** is only for the better maize-growing areas of the UK. There is limited seed availability for 2016, but if you are successfully growing varieties like Ambrosini, Asgaard, Atrium, ES Marco or Hobbit, try some, it will impress.



## Inoculate Maize Silage to Increase Efficiency

Financial pressures drive farmers to look thoroughly at all costs, but think very carefully about cutting out the additive on maize silage. The primary issue is reducing risk of secondary fermentation and the associated reduction in energy value of the silage. The risk is especially high if dry matter is above 30% or you are planning to have clamps open during the warmer months of the year when secondary fermentation rates are higher. Use additives proven to reduce the development yeasts and moulds associated.



## Plan to Manage Maize Stubble

Soil is a valuable resource and a potential pollutant in the river. Keep your soil in your field with strategic surface cultivation. The picture shows a field that had been cultivated across the slope significantly reducing soil wash, even with a moderate gradient. This approach also allows for better surface drainage, allowing earlier access to the ground in the spring. Based on trials, Field Options are developing methods and guidelines to improve the reliability of undersowing under maize to create excellent soil protection.



## Prepare Soils for Spring Cropping

The plastic nature of the subsoil in the spring limits the effectiveness of subsoil cultivations and can cause damage to soils. Now is the time to start preparations for the spring. If you have any compaction problems that could affect spring sown crops like maize or beet, now is the time to do subsoil cultivations. This is when the soil at 25-35 cm is dry enough to crack and create fissures through the soil profile.



## New Fodder Beet – Available for Inspection

There is renewed interest in Fodder Beet. Unlike maize, whatever the season, whatever size the crop, the energy density is always consistent at >12 ME/kg DM. We introduced two new Beet varieties for 2015, medium dry matter **Geronimo** and very high dry matter, **Barents** for 2016, we will also have **Zephyr** primarily aimed at the AD market. This was bred in the UK and is now widely used in Northern Europe. All three are available to view alongside our other varieties at sites in Herefordshire, Lincolnshire & Devon.



## Mark Sheridan Joins the Team

Field Options Ltd is delighted that Mark Sheridan joined the team in late June. Mark has 20 years' experience in trials work and comes to us after 8 years lecturing in agricultural colleges in Shropshire and Cheshire. Based in North Shropshire, Mark is manager for the North-West, West Midlands and northern half of Wales, supporting customers and distributors in the region. He will also be co-ordinating our development trials throughout the UK and providing an additional layer of technical support online and by phone.

Mobile: **07557 988 858**

email: [ms@field-options.co.uk](mailto:ms@field-options.co.uk)

Twitter: [@Husbandry\\_Man](https://twitter.com/Husbandry_Man) or [@FieldOptionsLtd](https://twitter.com/FieldOptionsLtd)

## Grass - Early Management is Critical to Success:



### Grass Weed Control – Don't Wait Until Spring

Many farmers will have controlled key perennial weeds before reseeding with herbicide, cultivation, or break cropping, but they often ignore weeds growing from seed, expecting to rely on the sown species to out compete these seedlings.

Many weeds, like Chickweed need to be eliminated before they start to compete with establishing grass or, like Docks, before they become resistant to key selective herbicides. Spring is too late. Don't just look over the gate. Walk fields regularly, identify key weeds as they develop and investigate the herbicide options – there is more choice than you may expect, even clover-safe options.

Most herbicides rely on grasses and clovers being at a certain growth stage before they are resistant to selective herbicides, they will also work better in specific weather and growth conditions. Make sure you get the timing right for best results.



Dead Heart Symptoms & Frit Larvae

### Look Out for Grass Pests

Key autumn pests to look out for are Frit Fly in grass and Sitona Weevils in Clover. This Autumn we have seen clover establishing well and then disappearing. In some cases this is weevils and some cases just slugs. If you are not sure, take advice. If it is slugs and the soil is not well consolidated, it could benefit from an extra rolling. It greatly reduces their mobility.



Sitona Weevil (L) & Slug damage (R) in Clover



### Early Grazing Management for Better Pasture

Within most grass mixtures there are a range of species and sub-species which initially have at different growth rates. Longer-lasting species of grass and clovers are often less aggressive. In the interest of the long-term balance of species in a pasture, it is very important to graze down the early growth to prevent the ingredients with the most early vigour dominating the sward. This can also assist with the control of some annual weeds. Ideally use sheep or young cattle as the initial grazers, especially if soil conditions are difficult. **Field Options Rule:** *Reseed early enough to allow at least one grazing before the end of the growing season.*

Get detailed recommendations on pesticides from BASIS a qualified agronomist.

For more information contact Field Options on **01544 262 500** or [www.field-options.co.uk](http://www.field-options.co.uk)

© Field Options Ltd 2015