

PIONEER

A YATES FAMILY BUSINESS

maize

for Grain

2023-2024

22

proven maize
hybrids

+ Don't
underestimate
bird damage

Managing
Northern
Leaf Blight

Growing
a catch or
cover crop

Income and flexibility

Ken Edkins finds a winning combination



PIONEER
BRAND · PRODUCTS



Welcome to the Pioneer® Maize for Grain catalogue for the 2023-24 season.

The past growing season is one of the most challenging I have experienced in more than three decades in the NZ maize industry. The wet spring delayed planting in some areas and made it very challenging for many growers. Subsequent heavy and persistent rainfall created ideal conditions for diseases including Northern Leaf Blight (see pages 38 to 41) and cyclones wreaked devastating damage across much of the North Island. Our thoughts continue to be with those growers who have been adversely affected. We have recently become a principal partner of the Rural Support Trust. Their networks have local rural people who know from experience the pressures that can mount up. To chat with someone who understands your issues, contact them on 0800 787 254.

This year sees the limited volume introduction of four new grain hybrids - P8240 (82 CRM), P8711 (87 CRM), P0200 (102 CRM) and P1096 (110 CRM). These outstanding hybrids bring agronomic and yield benefits to growers throughout the country. Their release would not be possible without the commitment of our capable research team and the small army of contractors and growers who support them to make our widescale trial program possible.

The past three decades have seen significant improvements in the yield potential of New Zealand maize grain crops. The release of new shorter maturing hybrids has made maize grain a very viable option for growers in cooler growing regions. They have also enabled many to plant a winter crop after their grain is harvested. In this year's catalogue we include an article on winter cover crop options (see pages 8 to 13) and the financial and environmental benefits they can confer.

We join you in looking forward to a more successful 2023-24 growing season.

With warmest regards,

William Yates
Managing Director



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COVER STORY



PIONEER LONG LOOK

We strive to produce the best products on the market.

We deal honestly and fairly with customers, employees and business associates.

We vigorously market our products, but without misrepresentation.

We provide helpful management information to assist customers in making optimum profits from our products.





Maize grain plus cover crops a winning combination



BATEUP FAMILY,
WAIKATO

Graeme and Susan Bateup's first maize grain crop was a surplus silage crop. Thirty years later, the couple are committed to the industry and grow a significant area of maize grain each year.

"It all started with a maize silage crop which we didn't need for the dairy farm" says Graeme. "I ended up selling it for grain and the next year I planted maize for grain".

The family, who run four properties with a combined area of 290 ha in the northern Waikato now grow a total of 107 ha of maize grain at Orini (38 ha), Waiterimu (36 ha) and Te Hoe (33 ha). They also run two dairy farm operations once-a-day milking a total of 300 Jersey cows at Orini and on the home farm between Te Hoe and Waiterimu.

Some of the Te Hoe paddocks have been in continuous maize grain for the past 30 years while the recently purchased Orini block is in its second season of maize.

The Te Hoe block tends to dry out while the maize yield potential at Waiterimu is capped by the high clay content of the soils.

"Most years we would harvest 8-13 t/ha of maize grain off these blocks" says Graeme who adds "This season the Te Hoe block is looking excellent, and it may do as much as 14 t/ha as a result of the abnormally wet growing season".

LEFT Graeme Bateup with his daughter Nerida and son Ryan.

The Orini block's consolidated peat soils provide a much higher yielding environment. The 2021/22 season's main crop yielded 17 t/ha while a strip of Pioneer® brand P0937 in the farm's Pioneer Product Advancement Trial (PAT) yielded 19.6 t/ha. This was the highest yield for the Waikato and resulted in Graeme and Susan winning the Pioneer Maize for Grain Yield Competition for the region.

When it comes to selecting hybrids, Graeme is looking for products with good drought stress, standability and disease resistance ratings as well as a proven high yield.

This year the couple have planted a mix of Pioneer® brand P0937, P0640 and P9400 across their blocks.

“Pioneer maize is a high-quality product with good field representatives and excellent technical back-up” says Graeme. “If there is ever a problem with a crop, they are out like a shot helping me to sort it out”.

The Bateup's do the ground preparation, fertiliser spreading,



Farm walk

- 107 ha of maize grain grown in 2022-23
- Hybrids planted: P0937, P0640 & P9400
- Regional winner of Pioneer 2022 Maize for Grain Yield Competition

spraying and winter crop planting themselves and use a local contractor to plant and harvest the maize. Children Andrew, Ryan and Nerida have all helped with the cropping operation over the past few years. Ryan is currently fulltime in the farming business mainly focused on the dairy operations while Nerida, who is studying Animal Science at Massey University, is home for the semester break. Andrew, a Lincoln agricultural graduate, has recently taken a position as an intern at John Deere's head office in Brisbane. While he was at Lincoln University he returned home most years to help with cover crop planting. Susan does the bookkeeping for all the farms, the odd bit of tractor driving when needed and milks when the workers are on leave.

Maize planting usually starts in the beginning of October and takes about four weeks to complete.

“This year the weather was against us, and we didn't even get started until mid-October” says Graeme.

Over the years Graeme has reduced the amount of tillage he does and nowadays the seed bed is prepared using a chisel plough and a couple of light power harrow passes.

Each block is soil tested annually and the results are used to determine fertiliser inputs.

Weed control consists of the normal pre-emergent spray of acetochlor and atrazine followed by a post emergence application of Arietta applied via an 11-row sprayer which applies herbicide between the rows using nozzles which are 76 cm apart.

“Weeds are never a problem anymore” says Graeme. “The crops are really clean, and our application method means we don't get any chemical on the plants”.

Maize grain harvest normally takes place in late March to early April. The combine is fitted with a mulcher head which chops the maize plants into 100 mm pieces. Paddocks are lightly power harrowed to mix the stubble with soil

and an air seeder plants the winter crop in the same pass.

“For the final step we roll the paddocks using a 6.2 m roller” says Graeme. “It doesn't take long to get across the paddocks and once that's finished, we just leave the crops and let them grow”.

Graeme has been growing winter Italian ryegrass crops for the past 20 years. Three years ago, son Andrew spurred him to trial some other cover crop species.

“I told him you order the seed, and I will plant it” says Graeme. “As a consequence, over the past three years we have tried a range of crops and crop mixes including mustard, daikon radish, crimson clover, ryecorn, oats and vetch”.



ABOVE Tillage radish cover crop.

Graeme's objectives for the cover crops include improving soil structure and capturing surplus nitrogen left in the soil after grain harvest as well as the production of silage for the dairy herds.

“We plant the worst paddocks in mustard and radish and mulch it back in to try and improve the soil structure” says Graeme. “Daikon radish is also great at helping reduce weed pressure”.

Graeme has successfully made silage from cover crop mixes of oats, vetch, crimson clover and ryecorn as well as the more traditional Italian ryegrass.

“We get silage while at the same time we know the crops are sucking up surplus nitrogen and reducing the risk of leaching” says Graeme.

Graeme plans to continue growing maize grain into the future.

“It's a good fit with dairying because the workload doesn't start until well after calving” says Graeme. “...and I really enjoy growing maize grain crops”.

“Pioneer maize is a high-quality product with good field representatives and excellent technical back-up. If there is ever a problem with a crop, they are out like a shot helping me to sort it out.”

THIS PAGE (TOP) Graeme Bateup with Grain Account Manager Hamish Johnstone.



It pays to grow a winter *cover crops*

An increasing number of growers are growing a catch or cover crop between their maize grain crops. In this article we discuss the environmental and economic benefits of winter crops and look at some of the options.

Catch crop or cover crop?

Catch crops or cover crops are grown in the period between two main crops. Catch crops are primarily used to catch or “mop up” nutrients before they are lost through leaching while the main purpose of cover crops is to protect or improve the soil against erosion and minimise the risk of surface runoff by improving water infiltration. The terms tend to be used interchangeably but, as a principle, a cover crop sown with the primary purpose of taking up soil nutrients to reduce leaching is referred to as a “catch crop”.

A cover crop can deliver significant environmental and economic benefits



Key benefits of cover crops

Cover or catch crops can confer a number of soil health, environmental and economic benefits. Some of the key ones include:

Increased soil organic matter – bare soil is damaged by the elements and it can rapidly lose nutrients, carbon and organic matter. Cover or catch crops reduce this and return these three vital ingredients to the soil.

Less soil erosion – exposed soils are vulnerable to erosion and damage from the elements especially after heavy rain. A cover crop protects the soil surface from heavy rain and plant roots bind soil particles together holding it in-place which improves water infiltration and reduces surface runoff.

Reduced nitrogen leaching – a winter crop can take up excess nutrients especially nitrogen. This includes nitrogen fertiliser not used by the maize crop and nutrients released from decaying stubble or mineralising soil organic matter including plant roots.

Improved soil fertility – cover crops which are returned to the soil provide food for soil microbes and subsequently nutrients for successive crops. Legumes can fix and provide a cheap source of nitrogen which is released as the plant breaks down.

Greater suppression of weeds – a well-established cover crop stops winter weed growth. A cover crop mulch left on the soil surface after planting can help suppress weeds during the maize growing season.



Mixed cover crop



Crimson clover



Annual ryegrass

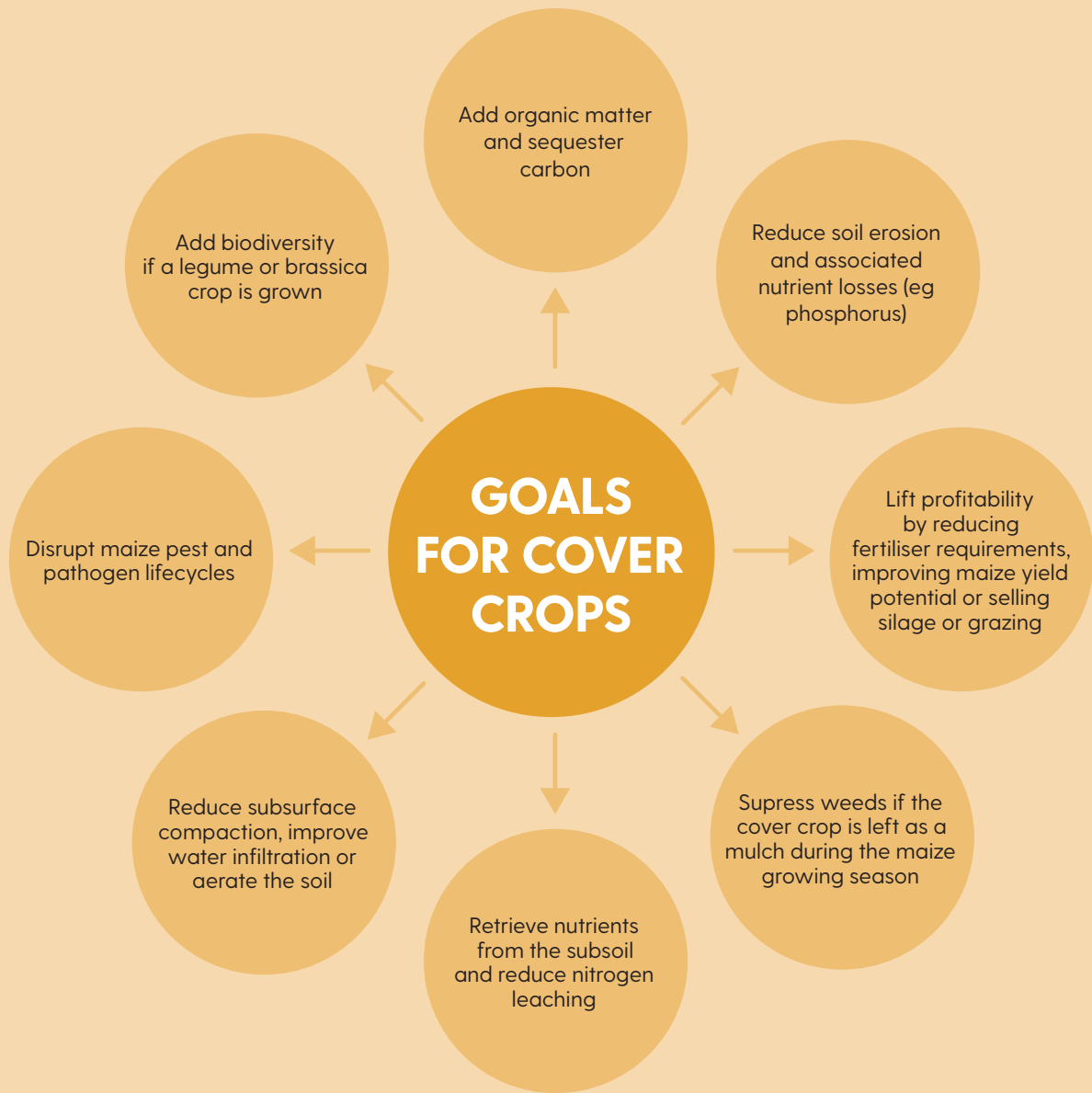


Faba beans

Choosing the right winter crop

There are a number of factors to consider when determining the best crop or combination of crops for your maize paddocks:

- 1. Determine the goals for each paddock** you want to plant in a winter cover or catch crop. Different goals require different cover crop species or species mixes, for example:
 - Grass or cereal species, due to their prolific root systems, are often used for erosion control and to build soil organic matter. They are also effective nitrogen scavengers (catch crops).
 - Brassicas can help to vary the types of plants in your crop rotation, and this can help to diversify your soil microbial community. Tap rooted crops like radish are good for aerating the soil and improving water infiltration.
 - Legumes are typically used as a cover crop or in a mix when we want to add nitrogen to the cropping rotation to offset fertiliser nitrogen.
- 2. Work out the target planting and crop termination dates** to determine the length of the winter growing season.
- 3. Decide whether you want to return the crop to the soil or harvest it** with grazing animals or for silage. If you plan to graze your winter cover or catch crop, care must be taken to avoid increasing the risk of nitrogen leaching or damaging soil structure.
- 4. Consider what herbicides you have used or plan to use.** Herbicide carryover can compromise both cover crop and future maize crop establishment. Be sure to thoroughly read herbicide labels to understand any planting or feeding restrictions.
- 5. Allow for your planned maize establishment method.** The best cover crop for a no till or strip till system will not necessarily be the right choice if you establish your maize using conventional cultivation methods.





Plant type	Advantages	Considerations
LEGUMES Legume crops harvest atmospheric nitrogen gas then bacteria in the plant's root nodules convert it into a form the plant can use. Maize grain crops grown after legumes tend to have a higher yield potential.		
Perennial clover (including red, strawberry and white)	Key benefits of clover include moderate yields, a high feed value and excellent suitability for grazing or silage making (especially in mixes).	Clover crops are susceptible to pests such as springtails as well as weed and grass competition in the establishment phase. Select the correct insecticide and/or herbicide to allow for good establishment. Care must be taken to avoid bloat when grazing pure stands.
Annual clover (including crimson, Persian and subterranean)		
Vetch	Quick establishing crop that provides excellent weed suppression.	Long vines can wrap around cultivation and planting equipment.
Lupins	High yielding cover crop which supresses weeds. Thrives in drier growing environments.	Tend to overshadow other species when planted in mixes. Pure stands are not suitable for grazing due to animal health risks.
Faba beans	Grows and thrives in cool wet soils. Continues producing nitrogen through grain fill and maturity.	Larger seed size can make planting in seed mixes challenging. Can be susceptible to disease in warm humid conditions.
GRASSES These species are a versatile catch crop option however they can harbour maize insect pests.		
Annual ryegrass	High yields of moderate quality feed. Annual ryegrass can be cut or grazed 1-3 times during the winter months.	Due to the volume of feed produced and its relatively slow rate of breakdown, annual ryegrass is not the best option if you are planning on returning the crop to the soil.
Cereals including oats, wheat and triticale	Cereals are normally strip grazed during winter or harvested for silage. They are cold tolerant and grow well if established in the late autumn.	Cereals have a long growing season and a short silage harvest window, which can be hard to match with target maize harvest and planting dates.
BRASSICAS Brassicas provide an excellent crop rotation; help increase the biodiversity of the field and breakdown easily in the spring.		
Mustard	Mustard fumigates the soil, attracts beneficial insects and is excellent at supressing weeds.	High levels of a toxic chemical (glucosinolate) make mustard stands unsuitable for grazing.
Daikon or tillage radish	Radish penetrates deep into the soil and has the potential to break through compaction layers and aerate the soil.	Requires good moisture content for establishment. Susceptible to insect pests such as springtails.
Forage rape and turnips	Both crops are cold tolerant and grow well if established in the autumn. Typically strip grazed over winter with 20-30% supplementary hay or silage.	Transition stock over 10 to 14 days. Cannot be ensiled due to low drymatter percentage. Susceptible to insect pests such as springtails.

For more information on the best cover crop options for your farm, contact your local seed supply merchant.



“Mixed species cover crops add biodiversity and deliver a range of benefits.”



Maize hybrids

Every farm is unique. Shouldn't your maize hybrids be too? Local testing and positioning of hybrids are the cornerstone to Pioneer® brand maize products delivering world-class performance. Each year we conduct around 160 maize grain trials across New Zealand. Chances are there is a trial located somewhere near you. Our

field team are also based in the main maize growing regions around the country. They understand how our hybrids perform and know the best products for your local climate, soil types, growing conditions and end use requirements. Give one of them, your local merchant or contractor a call for advice on choosing the right product for your paddock.



Defeat drought conditions



Get more out of every drop of water with Pioneer® brand Optimum® AQUAmax® maize hybrids. Designed to deliver both a yield advantage and strong agronomics, these hybrids offer improved performance in both water-limited and optimal growing conditions.

Designed to make more out of every drop

Optimum® AQUAmax® hybrids are more resilient in challenging conditions and responsive to favourable ones. These hybrids are bred to include traits that improve your crop's root system and silk emergence, among other agronomic characteristics, that contribute to managing drought stress.



Superior performance year after year

Optimum® AQUAmax® hybrids minimise the risk of decreased yields in water-limited environments while they can also take advantage of more favourable growing conditions.

See our latest agronomic and hybrid research

The 2023 edition of our Maize Grain Research publication provides comprehensive trial data to help growers make informed hybrid positioning decisions. We also

provide a summary of some of our recent agronomic research on catch crops, maize field establishment and tillage systems and a fall armyworm update.



Scan here for more info on hybrid performance:





Barry McCarter
Maize Product Manager

According to Barry

Pioneer Maize Product Manager Barry McCarter has spent a lifetime selecting and testing new higher-performing maize hybrids. He offers the following tips to growers seeking to choose the right grain hybrids.

“When selecting hybrids, prioritise maturity, yield potential and risk management. Even the best crop management practices will not result in high yields if you don’t choose high-yielding hybrids of the right maturity. Reduce risk by considering those plant characteristics which are most important in your unique growing environment and crop management system. These may include early growth, drought tolerance, disease resistance, standability and grain drydown ratings. Once you have selected the right hybrid, the final part of the process is to determine the best seed treatment”.

When it comes to seed treatment, Barry recommends growers consider risk factors on a by paddock basis.

“Seedling fungal disease is always a challenge in our cool and wet spring conditions and the population of damaging insects will be high if maize is planted into a paddock that has come out of pasture or a cereal crop” says Barry. “Birds are becoming more of a problem and bird repellent can be regarded as an insurance policy to reduce the risk of crop damage”.

Meet the latest crop from Pioneer

They’re here: exciting new products designed to deliver high yield potential and top performance in your local conditions. These

hybrids have all demonstrated yield and agronomic advantages over current Pioneer hybrids in PAT and IMPACT™ trials – bringing more grain yield to your farm.



**HIGHER YIELDS
FOR SOUTHERN
GROWERS.**

see page 18



**DEFENSIVE WINNER
WITH GAME-
CHANGING YIELDS.**

see page 19



**PRESENTS
PERFORMANCE
AND RELIABILITY.**

see page 22



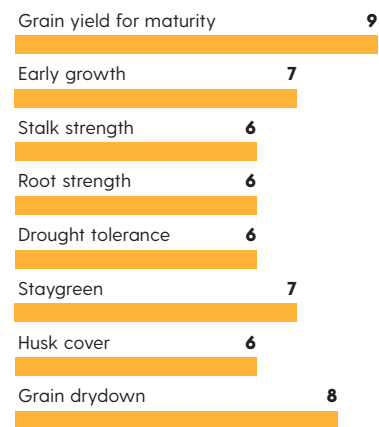
**SECURE PLANT
DELIVERS YIELD
CONSISTENCY.**

see page 24

Seed supply may be limited



CRM 80



Max 9 |

Widely adapted, versatile stalwart.

P8000 is tall, with low ear placement, strong roots, and stalks for dependable standability.

- Strong staygreen, Northern Leaf Blight and Rust resistances that deliver season long eye appeal.
- Good husk cover over a chunky cob with deep dent grain with high test weight.
- Yields well and has fast drydown.

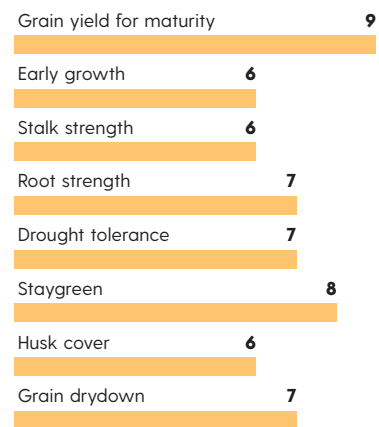
A popular choice in the Lower North Island and South Island, while providing a balance of yield and earliness in northern growing regions.



NEW



CRM 82



Max 9 |

Higher yields for southern growers.

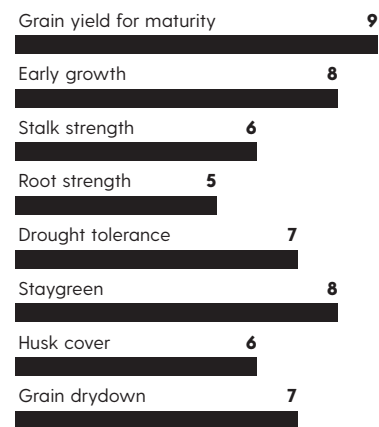
P8240 is a high-yielding grain hybrid backed by strong drought tolerance, staygreen and standability.

- **P8240** has a balanced agronomic package while noting superior roots are a real asset in this maturity.
- Established plant populations should be matched to assessed paddock yield potential.
- Delivers significantly higher grain yields than **P8000** and **P8333** in Lower North Island and South Island.

Where high levels of Northern Leaf Blight were experienced last season, consider planting **P8666** or **P8711**.



CRM 83



Max 9 |

Productive option for cooler regions.

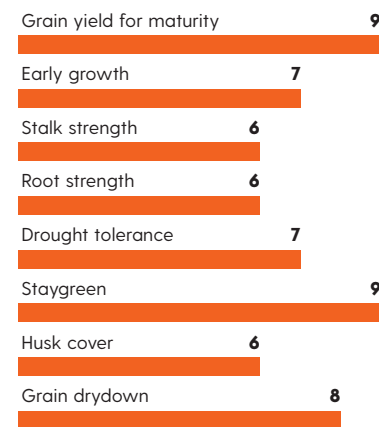
A tall plant with a long ear, good husk cover, supported by strong all-round agronomics, superior drought tolerance and staygreen.

- Has fast drydown and good test weight.
- While slightly earlier than **P8666** it has similar in-paddock appearance.
- A tall leafy plant so established plant populations should be 5,000 per hectare less than applied for **P8000** and **P8666**.

Delivers higher grain yields than **P8000** in the cooler regions of the Lower North Island and South Island.



CRM 85



Max 9 |

Solid performer with looks to match.

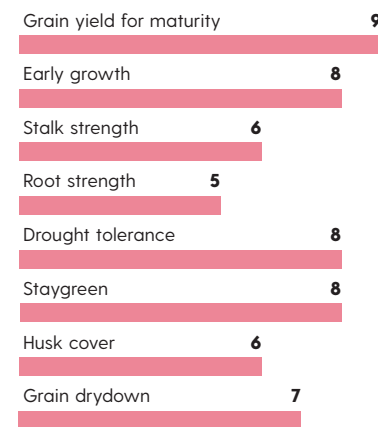
Delivers grain yields and test weights like **P8805**.

- Tall plant with a solid agronomic package, great standability, drought tolerance and staygreen.
- Above average husk cover, test weight and very fast drydown for timely grain harvest.
- Where Northern Leaf Blight is a concern consider planting **P8711**, **P8805** or **P8666**.

Adapted to Lower North Island and South Island growing regions.



CRM 86



Max 9 |

High performance hybrid with strong agronomic properties.

A tall imposing plant with strong all-round agronomics, superior drought tolerance, Northern Leaf Blight resistance and staygreen.

- Good husk cover, very good drydown and delivers top grain yields for maturity, with superior test weights.
- Large-framed plant so established plant populations should be approximately 10,000 per hectare lower than planted for **P8805**.
- Widely adapted from Dargaville to Ashburton where a hybrid of this maturity is required.

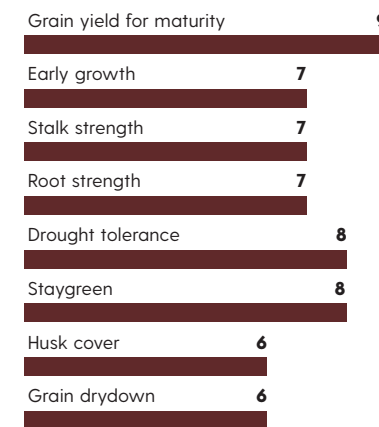
P8666 is intermediate in maturity between **P8500** and **P8805**.



NEW



CRM 87



Max 9 |

Defensive winner with game-changing yields.

Moderately tall but with low ear placement, superior roots & stalks for notable standability in this maturity.

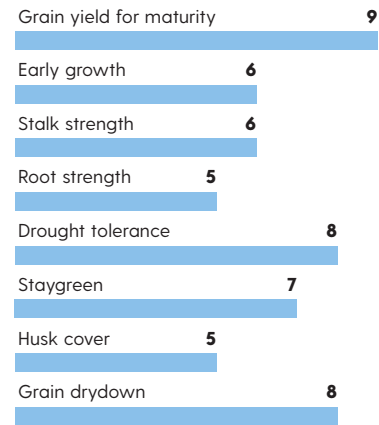
- Very high ratings for drought, Northern Leaf Blight, Rust & staygreen deliver season-long plant health, and yield stability.
- **P8711** has good husk cover, fast drydown and produces high test weight grain.
- Research results show a new level of grain yield performance compared to **P8666** and **P8805**.

A widely adapted product that will be at home in all North Island grain growing regions, particularly where Northern Leaf Blight is a significant concern.





CRM 88



Max 9 |

Tough all-rounder.

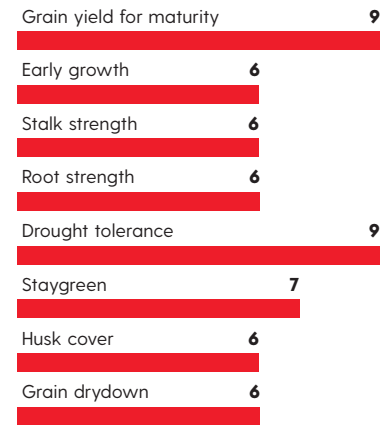
A tough hybrid providing growers with production stability.

- Performs where water may be limited as well as under ideal conditions.
- Has excellent all-round agronomics, a balanced disease profile and fast drydown.
- A popular choice for growers in northern production regions who require early grain harvest.

A resilient widely adapted plant which may be grown from Northland, as a very early option, all the way to Canterbury as a fuller season hybrid.



CRM 91



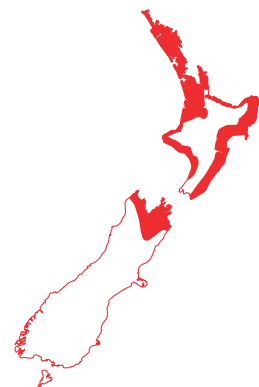
Max 9 |

Bred to defend – yields to impress.

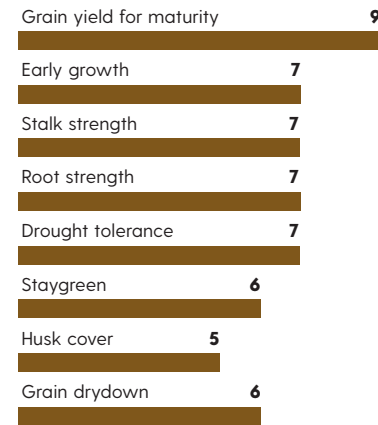
Early maturity Optimum® AQUAmax® offering yield stability for grain and silage.

- Tall plant with strong roots, drought tolerance and staygreen.
- Good husk cover and ear rot resistances.
- Often produces a second cob resulting in higher-than-expected grain yields

Adapted to North Island growing regions where a hybrid of this maturity is required. Where Northern Leaf Blight is a consideration plant **P8711** or **P9400**.



CRM 94



Max 9 |

Trusty and reliable. Delivers year after year.

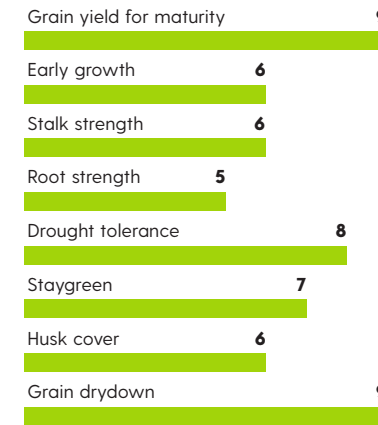
An imposing plant that delivers consistent grain yields with high test weights.

- Strong agronomically with a sound all round disease resistance offering.
- A widely adapted hybrid intermediate in maturity between **P9127** and **P9721**.
- When planting very early into cold wet soils consider **P9127** or **P9721** depending on maturity requirements.

Performs best in moderate to high yield environments from Kaitaia to Masterton.



CRM 97



Max 9 |

The hero for fast drydown and timely harvest.

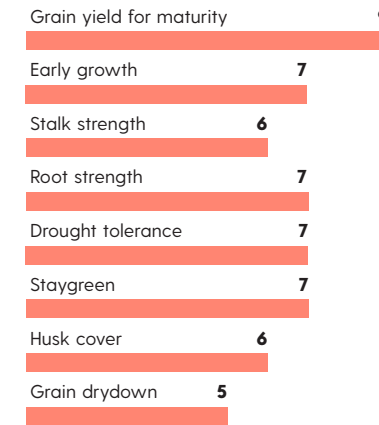
P9721 offers a great all-round balanced package of agronomic and disease resistance traits.

- High ratings for drought, staygreen, Northern Leaf Blight and Rust contribute to the delivery of consistent grain yields.
- Has very fast drydown for earlier harvest and reduced drying costs.
- Plant with **P9400**, **P9978** or **P0021**.

Popular as a mid to late maturity hybrid in the Lower North Island while being an earlier option in the warmer regions in the north.



CRM 99



Max 9 |

Very productive. Very stable. Very defensive.

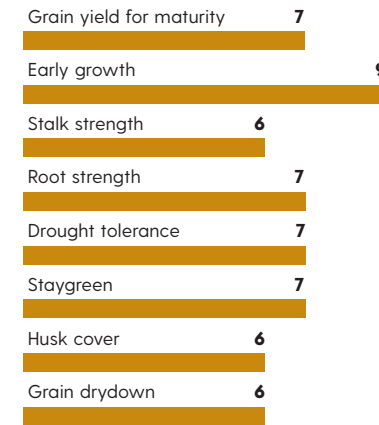
P9978 is a modern erect-leaf hybrid with strong standability, drought tolerance and great all-round agronomic offering including Northern Leaf Blight resistance.

- Trials show that **P9978** delivers industry leading grain yields in this maturity so is higher yielding than **P9721**, **P0021** and **P0362**.
- Harvest moisture is at the mid-point between **P0021** and **P0362**.
- Delivers in challenging through to high yielding environments and will reward the time taken to select and plant the best seeding rate for the growing situation.

Widely adapted to all North Island growing regions where this maturity is required.



CRM 100



Max 9 |

Hard to beat consistency.

Produces an eye-catching cob on plants with sound standability and staygreen, bundled together with top disease resistances.

- A relatively short plant with excellent grain yields.
- Most productive in moderate to high yield environments.
- An important mid-maturity hybrid in the north and a top full-maturity option in the Lower North Island.

Companion with **P9721**, **P9978** or **P0362** depending on agronomic and maturity requirements.

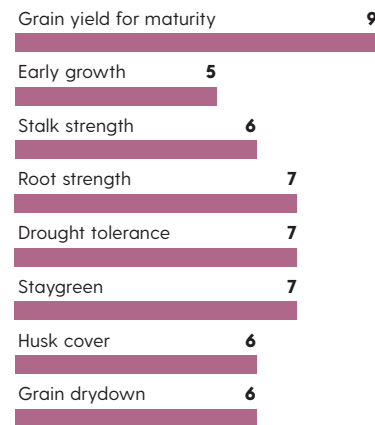




NEW



CRM 102



Max 9 |

Presents performance and reliability.

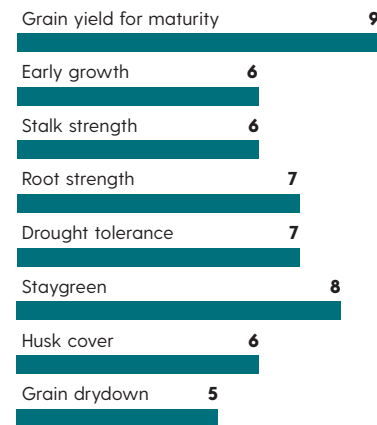
A balanced all-round plant profile producing a chunky ear with deep grain and sound husk cover.

- A great option where standability, Northern Leaf Blight & Rust are concerns.
- Has superior drought tolerance, staygreen, sound ear rot resistances, drydown, test weight and yield stability.

Widely adapted to all North Island growing regions but is particularly competitive down the East Coast where it delivers higher yields than **P0021** & **P0362**.



CRM 103



Max 9 |

Robust hybrid with foliar health and “eye appeal”.

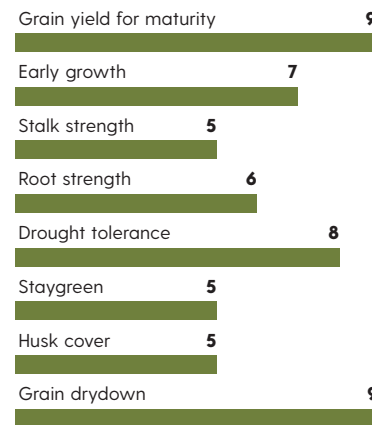
Has an exceptionally robust all-round plant profile producing a chunky ear with deep grain and sound husk cover.

- A top option where standability, Northern Leaf Blight, Rust or Eyespot are concerns.
- These strengths are complemented by superior drought tolerance, staygreen, sound ear rot resistances, good test weight and yield stability.
- Compared to **P0547**, **P0362** has better Northern Leaf Blight resistance and standability, similar yield performance while being about 1.5% wetter at harvest.

Widely adapted to North Island growing regions where a hybrid of this maturity is required.



CRM 105



Max 9 |

The Rangitikei pace-setter.

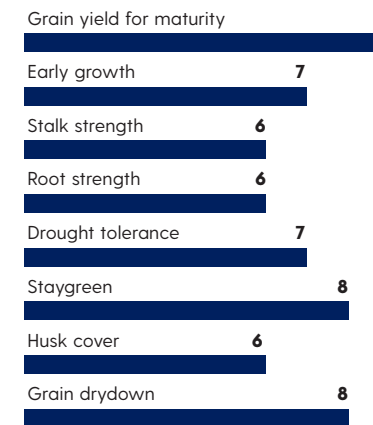
A broadly adapted product that is particularly productive in Rangitikei.

- A well-balanced hybrid with grain appeal.
- Outstanding early growth and drought tolerance.
- Shows very fast grain drydown so reaches grain harvest moisture as a 101 CRM hybrid to facilitate earlier harvest timing.

Where Northern Leaf Blight is a concern plant **P9978**, **P0021**, or **P0362**.



CRM 106



Max 9 |

Leaf disease champion delivering yield stability.

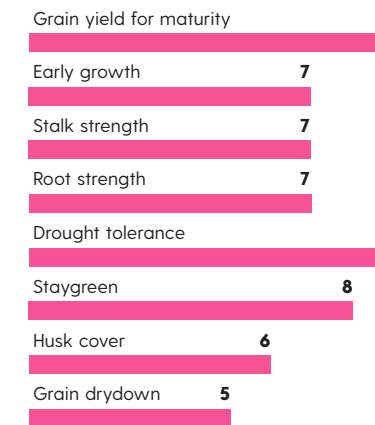
Great looking hybrid combining excellent all-round agronomics with desirable ear rot, superior Northern Leaf Blight, Common Rust and Eyespot resistances.

- Tall plant with sound standability, staygreen and drought tolerance.
- Growers will appreciate the early harvest opportunity presented by this hybrid's very fast grain drydown.
- Companion with **P0362**, **P0900** and **P0937** after considering yield expectation, hybrid maturity and desired harvest timing.

Particularly productive from Northland through Waikato, Bay of Plenty and the East Coast where its foliar health, fast drydown and yield performance have been noted by many growers.



CRM 109



Max 9 |

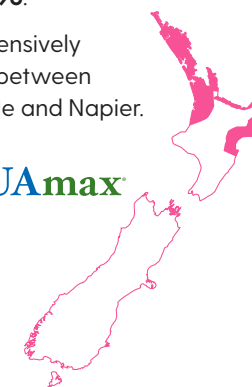
Hard to fault, stable, all-round hybrid.

P0900 is a tall plant with a long ear, packed with deep grain to deliver impressive grain and silage yields.

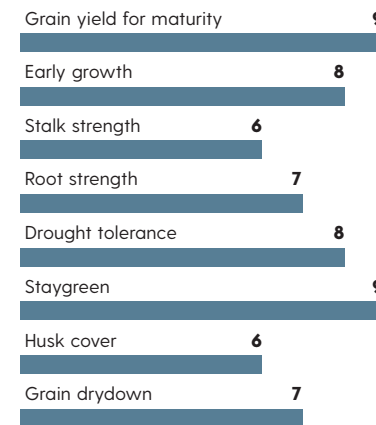
- Excellent standability, low ear placement, AQUAmax® drought tolerance, great foliar health and staygreen.
- An exceptionally balanced package that delivers yield stability.
- East Coast growers will value strong Head Smut resistance.
- Maximise this hybrid's top of the line yield stability by targeting established plant populations of 80,000 to 110,000 plants per hectare according to paddock yield expectation.
- Companion with **P0640**, **P0937** or **P1096**.

Now extensively planted between Dargaville and Napier.

optimum
AQUAmax



CRM 109



Max 9 |

Solid hybrid with next generation grain yield.

A widely adapted high yielding option shown to deliver the next step in grain yield performance in this maturity.

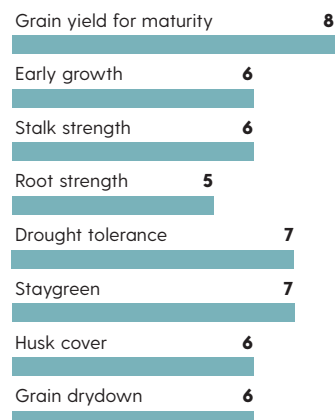
- Very appealing modern plant type, with low ear placement, erect leaves, notable standability and sound husk cover.
- Combines superior resistances to Northern Leaf Blight and Rust with strong stress emergence, exceptional staygreen and drought tolerance.
- With average test weight it will not match the food corn grain quality of **P0891** and **P1253**.

P0937 is well adapted in moderate to high yielding situations in Northland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Gisborne, and Hawke's Bay growing regions.





CRM 109



Max 9 |

Pack your paddock for top grain quality.

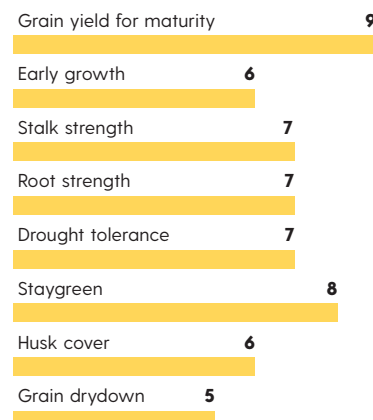
P1253 is moderate in height, with low ear placement, a strong agronomic package, excellent staygreen and good drydown for maturity.

- **P1253** is well adapted to moderate to higher yielding situations.
- Produces grain with high test weight and notable food corn quality.
- For very early planting into cold challenging paddocks or where Northern Leaf Blight is a concern plant **P0900**, **P1096** and **P0937**.

P1253 is the preferred Pioneer food grade hybrid in Gisborne and Hawke's Bay growing regions.



CRM 110



Max 9 |

Secure plant delivers yield consistency.

A balanced all-round product which, like **P0900** and **P0937**, is an obvious choice where standability and Northern Leaf Blight are seasonal challenges.

- Short with low ear placement, superior roots, and stalks.
- Strong Northern Leaf Blight and Rust resistances combine with dependable drought tolerance and staygreen for late season plant health & yield stability.
- Has good husk cover and grain test weights like **P0900**.
- Aim to establish 85,000 to 110,000 plants per hectare to match realistic paddock yield expectation.

A widely adapted hybrid from Northland to Hawke's Bay.



Still available in 2023:



WE'RE PROUD TO SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT FARMERS



The Rural Support Trust network has local rural people available to support farmers through all kinds of challenges.

Contact them on 0800 787 254 or via rural-support.org.nz





Maize delivers *income and flexibility*



KEN AND HELEN EDKINS, TE PUKE

Maize grain is delivering a winning combination of income and flexibility for Bay of Plenty maize growers Ken and Helen Edkins. The couple, who farm 115 ha on the outskirts of Te Puke, grow 86 ha of maize grain and graze beef cattle on the remainder of their land.

The property was a dairy farm when the Edkins purchased it nearly three years ago.

“We have a lot of other business and personal interests and didn’t want the commitment of milking cows or even running

a lot of dry cattle” says Ken. “We took over the property at the beginning of June and planted the first maize grain crop the following October”.

The farm’s highly fertile sandy loam over peat grows impressive maize crops with an average yield of 17 t/ha in the 2020-21 growing season and 16 t/ha in 2021-22. Despite being relatively new growers, Ken and Helen were Bay of Plenty regional winners of the Pioneer Maize for Grain Yield Competition in 2021 with a strip of P0937 which yielded 21.42 t/ha. They won for a second time in 2022, a drier and more challenging season, with the same hybrid yielding 18.09 t/ha.

Ken always splits his area between at least two hybrids to improve crop reliability.

ABOVE Ken Edkins with his grandson Jake Martin and Pioneer Area Manager Robin Billett.





Farm walk

- 86 ha of maize grain grown in 2022-23
- Average yield of 16 t/ha in 2021-22
- Hybrids planted: P0937 & P0900



“If one hybrid doesn’t have a good season the other one often makes up for it” he says.

Ken’s hybrid selection criteria are relatively straightforward.

“I’m looking for the highest yielding hybrids I can get. Agronomic ratings for characteristics like standability and disease resistance are also important, and I like dual purpose hybrids because they offer more flexibility in terms of end use”.

Ken is realistic about what he can expect from a hybrid.

“None of them do everything perfectly” he says. “I try and get hybrids which have high ratings for the things that we need, but in the end, I get paid for yield so that’s the most important thing for me”.

In the 2022-23 season Ken planted Pioneer® brand P0937 and P0900.

“These seem to be the highest yielding hybrids in the Bay of Plenty at the moment” says Ken. “If someone can

show me something which consistently performs better, I’ll be first in line to buy it”.

Ken’s relationship with local Pioneer Area Manager Robin Billett is also an important part of his decision to plant Pioneer® brand maize.

“I’ve known Robin for years and he is always there if I need to talk to him” says Ken. “He has been in the business for a long time and if I have a problem, he always has the answer”.

The maize area is sprayed out in spring and Ken does the groundwork himself to create a good seed bed. Soil tests are taken each season and fertiliser is applied according to the results.

“Our local fertiliser representative takes a lot of pride in helping us to produce a winning crop” says Ken. “We aim to enhance soil fertility rather than just apply the bare minimum”.

The grain crop is usually combined in late April while ground conditions are good which “makes life easier for harvest”.

Ken has been “playing” with winter cover crop options and has tried oats, annual ryegrass and mustard which were mulched to enhance the soil. His high yielding maize grain crops leave behind large amounts of crop residue which can be challenging especially when combined with a high yielding cover crop.

“The mustard worked the best to date although it didn’t grow so well in the wet patches of the paddock”.

While Ken is currently committed to traditional cultivation methods, he has played with direct drill and is keeping an eye on strip till as a possible future option.

“I’m open to new crop management practices” says Ken. “While I enjoy growing high yielding crops in the end it’s all about profitability and sustainability”.

“I like dual purpose hybrids because they offer more flexibility in terms of end use.”

Ken Edkins



LumiGEN™ *Seed Treatment*

GIVING YOUR MAIZE SEED A HEAD START



Maximise your crops yield potential with Pioneer's exclusive LumiGEN™ seed treatment recipes which have been tested and proven for use on Pioneer® brand maize hybrids. You can plant with confidence knowing your seeds and seedlings have advanced protection against pests, disease and uncertain soil conditions during the critical early growth period.

LumiGEN™ seed treatments are available to:

1. Protect your maize from diseases

Our seed treatment recipe includes fungicides which provide robust protection against a range of seed and soil borne diseases in maize, such as Pythium, Rhizoctonia and Fusarium.

2. Protect seedlings from insect damage

We offer several insecticide options which provide protection against common New Zealand maize pests – Argentine stem weevil, greasy cutworm and black beetle. An inbuilt biological creates a living barrier to deter nematodes while encouraging healthy root development.

3. Keep birds away from your seed

A scientifically formulated non-lethal bird repellent stops birds from eating newly planted maize seed. This unique formulation is based on an organic chemical found in a number of plants, including aloe vera and rhubarb. Each kernel is surrounded with a protective coating that causes birds immediate, yet temporary, digestive discomfort.

Talk to your local Pioneer representative, merchant or contractor to determine the best LumiGEN™ seed treatment option for your growing environment.



	Fungicide	Insecticide				Bird Repellent
	Seed & Soil borne diseases	Black Beetle	Argentine Stem Weevil	Greasy Cutworm	Nematodes ¹	
LumiGEN™						
L-200	✓					
L-200+	✓					✓
L-300	✓	✓	✓			
L-300+	✓	✓	✓			✓
L-400	✓	✓	✓*	✓	✓	
L-400+	✓	✓	✓*	✓	✓	✓

* Research data shows the insecticide in L400 and L400+ is more effective at reducing plant loss due to Argentine Stem Weevil damage than the insecticide in L300 and L300+
¹ L400 and L400+ contains Bacillus spp which suppresses nematode damage in maize



Measuring improvements

We have recently invested in laboratory equipment to help us quantify and further refine the quality of our LumiGEN™ seed treatments. The Lab FlowTek meter provides an estimate of plantability in the field. The Heubach Dustmeter allows us to quantify dust release from treated seed.

This new equipment is helping us to refine our seed treatment processes so we can deliver the highest quality seed with improved plantability, greater pest and disease protection and enhanced safety to our production staff as well as the customers and planter operators who handle our seed.

Research shows inhaling airborne dust from treated seed can have harmful effects. Our research shows that LumiGEN™ treatment formulations meet or exceed the strictest European dust-off standards.



Don't underestimate bird damage

With the increase in riparian plantings, bird numbers seem to be on the rise, and we have seen an increase in replants due to bird damage.

Pukekos, ducks, pheasants and other bird species dig or pull out small maize plants to eat the establishing seed. A reduction in plant population correlates to a decrease in maize grain yield potential.

Bird repellent works

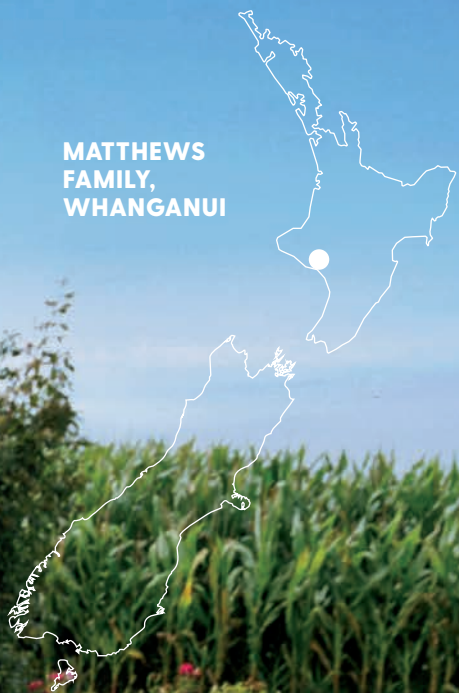
The use of seed-applied bird repellent is a proven means to help reduce bird damage and the potential benefit well outweighs the additional cost.

The photo to the right illustrates the potential loss of plants due to bird damage. In this paddock a strip of L400 (fungicide + insecticide) was planted in a paddock of L400+ (fungicide, insecticide, and bird repellent). The birds quickly located the area of the paddock where the maize seed didn't have bird repellent and removed virtually all of the plants.





Maize and roses *a quality match*



MATTHEWS
FAMILY,
WHANGANUI



Maize grain and roses form the basis of a unique, but successful agribusiness for the Whanganui-based Matthews family.

Bob and Cath, along with son Tom and daughter Samantha, farm “Fernhill”, a 228 ha property near Fordell about 10 km southeast of Whanganui. The farm is a mixed cropping and livestock operation which grows around 80 ha of maize grain and 20 ha of barley. A breeding flock of 500 Coopworth ewes lamb in August, and surplus lambs are finished on farm.

The farm is also home to Matthews Nurseries Ltd, a business best known for its quality rose plants, which was started by Bob’s parents Tom and Pearl Matthews in 1947. Matthews Roses range of varieties are selected not only for their beautiful flowers and fragrance, but for hardiness, health, and easiness to grow under New Zealand conditions. Samantha manages the rose operation which includes supply to garden centres nationwide plus a rapidly growing online business, while Bob focuses on the breeding programme which has released many Kiwi favourites, including the exclusive ‘My Rose Collection’ range. Each rose plant is in the ground for two years prior to sale, which means there is always a crop of around 100,000 roses in production.



LEFT Bob and Cath Matthews with children Tom and Samantha.



Tom's passion is the maize growing operation which consists of the 80 ha on the home farm plus around 95 ha which is grown on lease or share crop blocks within 20 km of the home farm. Of the total 175 ha of maize, around 20 ha is sold for silage while the remainder is taken through to grain. Tom also harvests an additional 250 ha of maize grain for local growers.

Bob was originally a cereal grower but the purchase of a harvester which came with a maize front lured him into maize grain in 2006.

"Returns for wheat and barley were low at the time and the maize grain crop delivered much better profitability" says Tom. "It was a game changer and we have been hooked ever since".

Slowly over time maize replaced cereals although the family still grows around 20 ha of barley each year principally to produce straw for the rose nursery and as a crop rotation for pasture renewal.

"Maize is an excellent way to mop up surplus nutrients after the roses and it is also an excellent break crop reducing the insect and disease pressure".

The home farm is a mix of heavy clay and lighter ash soils while the lease and share cropped land is a mix of river silts and ash soils.

"Every paddock has its own unique challenges" says Tom. "At home we are lucky because we have some heavy soils which hold on well in a dry year as well as some light ones which perform well when it is wet".

In the past seven years the average yield across all the blocks has been 11.4 t/ha.

"Some paddocks have been in maize for more than 10 years but because we are improving our management practices and the Pioneer hybrids are

getting better and better, yields are continuing to rise".

Tom is looking for "fence post" hybrids which will stand strongly through to harvest.

"The prevailing wind is a howling westerly and so good standability is very important to us. A high yield potential is no good if the hybrid is sitting on the ground at harvest time".

Drought tolerance is also important especially on the lighter soils.

Tom plants a range of maturities to help stagger the harvest dates. In the 2022-23 season he planted a mix of Pioneer® brand P8666, P8805, P9127, P9978, P0547 and P0937 for grain, as well as P8500 for silage.

The family have worked alongside Pioneer Regional Manager David McDonald ever since they planted their first crop.

"It's great to be working with someone who is focused on looking after our

best interests" says Tom. Tom also appreciates Pioneer's widescale trialling programme and the fact the seed is grown in Gisborne.

"We are selling plants ourselves and so we understand the importance of getting a hybrid which has been tested and proven under local growing conditions" says Tom. "And we are a family-owned business and so we like dealing with another one".

During the past few years Tom has migrated from traditional cultivation to a reduced tillage system which utilises speed discs and a soil aerator. Around 20 ha are established by direct drill each year.

"We've found reduced tillage systems work better especially on our heavy soil" says Tom. "It pays not to work it too much".

Maize planting starts in early October and continues through to mid-November.

"Spraying and side-dressing is usually completed by January and then we just shut the gate until harvest" says Tom.

In the past two seasons Tom has been trialling foliar fertiliser and fungicides aerially applied to the crop around tasseling.

"We are aiming to maintain leaf health right through to black layer" says Tom. "We did 50 ha this year and it looks like we have had a great response".

Tom normally starts the combine around the 20th of April and hopes to have the last crop harvested in the first week of June. The majority of the maize grain is dried on farm, and sold direct to dairy and poultry farms in Taranaki and the Manawatū.

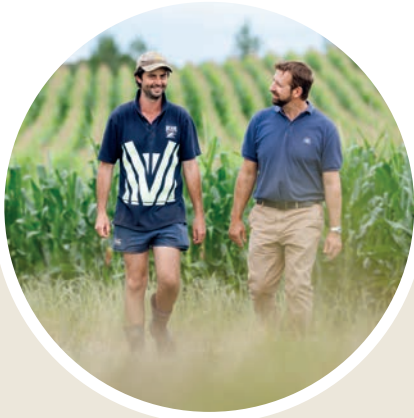
Tom planted the first annual ryegrass winter cover crop about eight years ago. Nowadays they add annual clover to the mix. The bulk of the cover crop is grazed with sheep although some paddocks are sprayed out and used as a green manure crop.

"We have a strict policy of no cattle on the maize paddocks" says Tom. "They do too much long-term soil damage for a short-term financial gain".

It seems like the combination of breeding and growing roses and producing maize grain is a winner for this innovative, hardworking family.

"Maize is the one crop we have grown which consistently performs no matter what the weather throws at it" says Tom. "It has never let us down".

LEFT Pioneer Regional Manager David McDonald with Bob and son Tom Matthews.



Farm walk

- 175 ha of maize grain grown
- 17 years planting maize grain
- Planted a mix of seven different Pioneer® brand hybrids in 2022-23





Managing Northern Leaf Blight



Seasonal climatic conditions resulted in a higher-than-normal incidence of Northern Leaf Blight (NLB) in the 2022-23 maize growing season. We asked Pioneer National Research and Agronomy Manager Dr Rowland Tsimba to tell us more about NLB and what growers can do to help manage it.

What is NLB and how does it spread?

Northern Leaf Blight is a foliar fungal maize disease caused by the fungus, *Exserohilum turcicum*. This disease requires moderate temperatures (18 – 27°C) and wet, humid conditions to spread. It appears as long, narrow, tan leaf lesions (see figure 1) which may merge to form large, irregular areas of dead tissue.

Northern Leaf Blight occurrence or severity depends on the availability

of three factors: the host plant, the presence of fungus and the right environmental conditions. If any of these are missing, this disease will not occur. Northern Leaf Blight fungal spores overwinter in maize residues. Under ideal conditions (e.g., heavy dews, frequent light showers, high humidity, and moderate temperatures), these spores multiply and infect the new crop. If conditions are cooler, hotter, or drier than ideal, no spore production or new crop infections will occur.

The growing environment determines the degree or intensity of infection:

- i. Low lying paddocks tend to be more prone to greater disease progression because they usually receive heavy dew or fog.
- ii. Weedy conditions obstruct airflow, elevating humidity, which increases disease infection.
- iii. Stressed crops are more prone to infection due to compromised plant immunity.

If favourable conditions for disease development exist, a susceptible hybrid will generally be affected even under optimal growing conditions. Spores are spread from crop residues to the plant by either rain splash or wind.

Secondary NLB spread occurs when spores from infected plants are spread to new plants within a paddock or from paddock to paddock. Spores can be carried long distances by wind.

Knowing how your crop got NLB is important when designing a long-term disease management plan. Disease lesions that begin on the lower leaves and progress up the plant indicate local infection from residue. Lesions starting in the upper plant canopy usually reflect wind-blown NLB from a different paddock.

How does NLB impact yield?

The severity of damage to crops will depend on when the plants were infected with NLB spores, the weather conditions, hybrid resistance and the growing environment. If lesions are up to the ear leaf or higher prior to, or during early grain fill (see figure 2), yield losses will be significant. If lesions only appear on upper leaves during late grain fill, yield loss will be minimal.

Yield loss from NLB is primarily due to loss in photosynthetic leaf area. The disease may also predispose the crop to stalk rots and consequently stalk lodging. For this reason, heavily infected crops should be harvested early.



Figure 1: A maize leaf showing NLB lesions.



Figure 2: A maize crop infected by NLB during early grain fill.

LEFT Pioneer Research Associate Jamie Millar inspecting a crop affected by NLB.



Why was NLB so bad last season?

Northern Leaf Blight affects maize crops more readily after tasselling. In NZ most crops tassel in January, which is typically a hot and dry month. Normal January weather conditions slow or stop any potential NLB development and spread.

The 2022-23 season delivered abnormally wet spring and summer conditions throughout many North Island regions.

Table 1: Waikato total spring rainfall and summer weather conditions for maize harvest seasons 2019-2023.

Season	Total spring rainfall (mm)	Total summer rainfall (mm)	Rainy days during summer	Number of days where there are ideal conditions for NLB spore production for the entire 24 hour period*
	1 Sep – 30 Nov	1 Dec – 28 Feb		
2018-19	226	228	25	3
2019-20	224	87	18	2
2020-21	281	153	27	1
2021-22	354	175	21	4
2022-23	529	465	50	14

* Rainy days where ideal temperatures for NLB spore production (18-27°C) existed for the whole 24-hour period.

In the Waikato:

Spring 2022 rainfall was close to double the average of the previous four years resulting in challenging establishment conditions and a greatly extended planting season.

- Very wet spring conditions meant many early planted crops established and grew under saturated soil conditions which resulted in stressed plants. This particularly impacted later planted crops that were also exposed to much heavier NLB spore loads further contributing to disease development on these crops
- Summer 2022-23 was one of the wettest on record (465 mm), with 50 rainy days
- There were 14 wet, humid days where temperature conditions were ideal (18 – 27 °C) for optimum NLB spore production throughout the entire 24 hour period

The prolonged wet, humid and stressful conditions provided ideal conditions for NLB spore production and even hybrids that possessed adequate resistance for NLB were affected.

Northern leaf blight spores are very small and even the smallest breeze can easily carry them great distances. It is likely that the Waikato outbreak

provided spores which fuelled the spread of NLB in more southern regions.

In the Manawātū:

Weather conditions were favourable for NLB with 42 rainy days during summer. This was substantially more than the average for the previous four seasons (27 rainy days).

How can growers reduce NLB risk in 2023-24?

While NLB is largely influenced by the weather, growers can minimise NLB occurrence by applying the following preventative strategies.

Incorporating **maize residues** significantly reduces fungal spores for the next maize crop. Since NLB can also be wind-blown from other paddocks or farms, request your neighbour(s) to also practice appropriate residue management.

In high-risk areas, **plant early**. Later planted crops are less advanced and therefore more susceptible when weather conditions favour NLB. They are also exposed to high spore volumes from earlier planted crops.

If you are in an area with a history of NLB incidence and you must plant late, choose a hybrid with high levels

of resistance. Follow **best general agronomic management practices**, as healthy plants tend to possess greater natural immunity.

Under high NLB pressure, **fungicide spraying** may be required. It is important to select the right chemistry. Fungicides are broadly classified as preventative or curative. Preventative fungicides do not enter the plant and are only effective when applied before NLB infection. Curative fungicides penetrate the plant and inhibit NLB development by moving to the infected area. They are usually effective when sprayed within 24 to 72 hours of infection.

Most research shows that the best maize yield response occurs when fungicide is applied between tasselling and silking. If you are only planning to make one fungicide application, it should be done at this stage.

Use fungicide strictly in accordance with label instructions and always consider withholding periods. Indiscriminate fungicide use for disease control (including spraying when pressure is already high) should be avoided, as it will be costly and may be too late to deliver yield benefits. Your merchant or chemical representative can help you determine an appropriate product, rate and timing of application.

Figure 3: Summarises the key preventative strategies required to minimise NLB infection.



What do Pioneer's resistance ratings mean?

Pioneer® brand maize hybrids are rated on a 1 – 9 rating scale to indicate the degree of resistance, where 1 is poor and 9 is best. Where NLB risk is high, only consider hybrids with a rating of at least 6 for maize grain or 5 for maize silage crops.

Hybrids with some level of NLB resistance can reduce the number of lesions on a leaf, the lesion size and the number of spores produced. Susceptible hybrids usually develop multiple lesions which typically merge to form large, irregularly shaped areas of dead tissue. Before making a spray decision, it is important to establish whether a fungicide is necessary,

especially if the infection and spores have been slowed or halted by the hybrid.

A resistant hybrid can still be impacted by NLB particularly if the disease pressure is high and plant health has already been compromised by less than optimum growing conditions (e.g. weeds, waterlogging or a lack of nutrients). This explains why one hybrid can show different levels of NLB infection when planted in different paddocks or even within the same paddock.

For paddock specific advice on the best NLB management program for your paddock, contact your local Pioneer or seed merchant representative.



Figure 4: A maize leaf showing a level of resistance for NLB. Note the yellow halo around the brown lesion, indicating the lesion has been contained.



Pioneer Maize for Grain Yield Competition

The Pioneer Maize for Grain Yield Competition recognises grain growers achieving the highest yields with Pioneer® brand maize hybrids on their farms.

The competition covers five regions: Auckland Province and North, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Gisborne/Hawke's Bay, and the Manawatū/Rangitikei.

There are three categories in each region which include early, mid and late hybrid maturity groups. All on-farm co-operators in the Pioneer Product Advancement Trials (PAT) are automatically entered into the competition for their region.

Congratulations to Gisborne's Tom Newman, who for the second consecutive season, takes home the Paul Baker Memorial Yield Cup as national winner of the 2022 Pioneer Maize for Grain Yield Competition.



NATIONAL YIELD CUP WINNERS				AUCKLAND PROVINCE & NORTH		WAIKATO		BAY OF PLENTY		GISBORNE/HAWKE'S BAY		MANAWATŪ/RANGITIKEI	
YEAR	WINNER	HYBRID	REGION	WINNER	HYBRID	WINNER	HYBRID	WINNER	HYBRID	WINNER	HYBRID	WINNER	HYBRID
1999	John Locke	33R87	Waikato	-	-	John Locke	33R87	Mick Doherty	33R87	David Clark (Opou Station)	3514	Tim & Dennis Harris	3753
2000	Mo Paratene	33G26	Gisborne/Hawke's Bay	-	-	Jeff & Todd Crabb	34E79	Neil Rogers	33R87	Mo Paratene	33G26	Bruce Gibbons	36H36
2001	Jeff & Todd Crabb	34K77	Waikato	-	-	Jeff & Todd Crabb	34K77	Mick Doherty	34E79	Mo Paratene	33R87	Tim Harris	34K77
2002	Brownrigg Agriculture	34V56	Gisborne/Hawke's Bay	-	-	Jeff & Todd Crabb	34E79	Neil Rogers	36B08	Brownrigg Agriculture	34V56	Paul Carter	38P05
2003	Mike & Karen Insley	33J24	Bay of Plenty	-	-	David Waller	36B08	Mike & Karen Insle	33J24	Hugh Ritchie	34K77	William Duncan	38T27
2004 ¹	Terry O'Brien	34K77	Waikato	Wharepapa Farm Ltd	36B08	Terry O'Brien	34K77	Mick Doherty	33J24	Mark Armstrong	33J24	Paul Carter	36B08
2005	Brownrigg Agriculture	34D71	Gisborne/Hawke's Bay	Paul & Susannah Ambler	34D71	George & Ross Thompson	34D71	Mick Doherty	33J24	Brownrigg Agriculture	34D71	Patrick O'Neill	38T27
2006	Brownrigg Agriculture	33J24	Gisborne/Hawke's Bay	Pukerimu Holdings Ltd	38P05	Wayne Henderson	34D71	Guy & Isobel Nicol	33J24	Brownrigg Agriculture	33J24	Paul Carter	38T27
2007	Mark Armstrong	34B97	Gisborne/Hawke's Bay	David & Adrienne Wordsworth	38B85	Steve Finer	34D71	Mick Doherty	34B97	Mark Armstrong	34B97	Andrew Russell	38P05
2008	Brian Amor	34B97	Gisborne/Hawke's Bay	D & A Wordsworth/Pouto Topu A Trust	35D28	Lloyd Farms Ltd	34P88	Neil Rogers	34P88	Brian Amor	34B97	Stephen Voss	38P05
2009	Brownrigg Agriculture	34B97	Gisborne/Hawke's Bay	Pouto Topu A Trust	35A30	Lloyd Farms Ltd	34D71	Guy & Isobel Nicol	33J24	Brownrigg Agriculture	34B97	Stewart Glasgow	37Y12
2010	Brian Amor	34D71	Gisborne/Hawke's Bay	David & Adrienne Wordsworth	34P88	Bruce Bateup	35Y33	Neil Rogers	34B97	Brian Amor	34D71	Stewart Glasgow	38P05
2011	Geoff MacGregor	P0537	Gisborne/Hawke's Bay	Shawn & Tracey Nichols	37Y12	Alan Henderson	34P88	Regan Studer	34P88	Geoff MacGregor	P0537	Richard Redmayne	35Y33
2012	Brian Amor	P0537	Gisborne/Hawke's Bay	Gavin Woolsey	P0537	Graeme Bateup	34P88	Joe Rua	34P88	Brian Amor	P0537	Stewart Glasgow	37Y12
2013	Brownrigg Agriculture	P1253	Gisborne/Hawke's Bay	Shawn & Tracey Nichols	37Y12	Steve Finer	P0021	Guy & Isobel Nicol	34P88	Brownrigg Agriculture	P1253	Dennis Nitschke	P0891
2014	Brian Amor	P1253	Gisborne/Hawke's Bay	Shawn & Tracey Nichols	P0021	Lloyd Farms Ltd	P0891	Dovaston Agriculture Ltd	P1253	Brian Amor	P1253	Dennis Nitschke	P0021
2015	Brownrigg Agriculture	P1253	Gisborne/Hawke's Bay	David & Adrienne Wordsworth	P0547	Alan Henderson	P9911	Dovaston Agriculture Ltd	P1253	Brownrigg Agriculture	P1253	Dennis Nitschke	P9721
2016	Donald & Craig Stobie	P1253	Waikato	Gavin & Trish Woolsey	P9911	Donald & Craig Stobie	P1253	Doherty & Studer Ltd	P1253	Paul Steele	P0891	Dennis & Marcus Nitschke	P9911
2017	Bostock New Zealand	P0640	Gisborne/Hawke's Bay	Paul Bamforth	P1477W	Alan Maxwell	P0640	Dovaston Agriculture Ltd	P0725	Bostock New Zealand	P0640	Stewart Glasgow	P0547
2018	Brian Amor	P1253	Gisborne/Hawke's Bay	David Waller	P0640	Richard Bain	P0640	Stockland Ag Ltd	P0725	Brian Amor	P1253	Dennis Nitschke	P9911
2019 ²	Not awarded in 2019	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2020	Stuart Gray	P0937	Gisborne/Hawke's Bay	Paul Bamforth	P0937	Stuart & Michele Clarke	P0937	Dovaston Agriculture Ltd	P1253	Stuart Gray	P0937	Simon Nitschke	P0937
2021	Tom Newman	P0640	Gisborne/Hawke's Bay	David & Adrienne Wordsworth	P0937	Lloyd Farms Ltd	P0937	Ken & Helen Edkins	P0937	Tom Newman	P0640	Stewart Glasgow	P0362
2022	Tom Newman	P0900	Gisborne/Hawke's Bay	David & Adrienne Wordsworth	P0640	Graeme Bateup	P0937	Ken & Helen Edkins	P0937	Tom Newman	P0900	Simon Nitschke	P0937

¹ The competition was expanded in 2004 to include Auckland Province and North ² The competition was not run in the 2018-19 season.



Maize grain

Indicative maize for grain costs of production for the 2023-24 season

The economics of growing maize for grain are dependent on growing costs, crop yield and the price received per tonne of grain. As a guide, the approximate fixed and variable costs to grow maize for grain are shown in this table. All costs exclude GST and were indicative at 31 March 2023. Given current price volatility we would encourage you to complete your own budget prior to the start of the growing season. Please contact your local merchant representative or contractor to establish current costs.

Use the ‘My costs’ column to determine your costs based on the estimates provided.

Visit pioneer.nz to calculate your farm-specific costs.

Growing and harvest costs		Indicative cost estimate (\$/ha)	My costs (\$/ha)
Pre-planting	Soil tests, other	10	<input type="text"/>
	Base: Lime @ 1 t/ha + application	120	<input type="text"/>
	Base fertiliser: 300 kg/ha + application	510	<input type="text"/>
	Cultivation: To planting specifications	430	<input type="text"/>
Planting	Pioneer® brand maize seed P0640 @ 94,000/ha	555	<input type="text"/>
	FAR levy (\$1.00/10,000 kernels @ 94,000/ha)	10	<input type="text"/>
	LumiGEN™ System L-400 seed insecticide treatment	145	<input type="text"/>
	Starter fertiliser: 250 kg/ha DAP + application	415	<input type="text"/>
	Planting	210	<input type="text"/>
Post-planting	Pre emergence weed control + application	140	<input type="text"/>
	Post emergence weed control + application	145	<input type="text"/>
	Side dressing: 250 kg/ha urea + application	390	<input type="text"/>
	Harvest: Combine	500	<input type="text"/>
Total input costs per hectare		\$3,580	<input type="text"/>
Interest on input costs excluding harvest			
Interest on \$3,130 @ 8% for 8 months		\$190	<input type="text"/>
Total costs (inputs & interest)		\$3,770	<input type="text"/>

Cartage and drying costs

Yield

Tonnes per hectare: DRY (@ 14% moisture)	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00
Tonnes per hectare: WET (@ 22% moisture)	11.03	12.13	13.23	14.33	15.44

Cartage and drying costs (\$)

Cartage – 50 km @ \$22 per wet tonne	243	267	291	315	340
Drying (from 22% – 14%) @ \$48 per wet tonne	529	582	635	688	741
Total drying costs per hectare	772	849	926	1,003	1,081

Cost summary (\$)

Input costs	3,580	3,580	3,580	3,580	3,580
Interest (on input costs)	190	190	190	190	190
Drying costs & cartage costs	772	849	926	1,003	1,081
Total costs	4,542	4,619	4,696	4,773	4,851

Maize for grain net return* per hectare sensitivity analysis

Maize for grain price (\$/tonne)	Maize grain yield (t/ha DRY)				
	10	11	12	13	14
\$475	\$208	\$606	\$1,004	\$1,402	\$1,799
\$500	\$458	\$881	\$1,304	\$1,727	\$2,149
\$525	\$708	\$1,156	\$1,604	\$2,052	\$2,499
\$550	\$958	\$1,431	\$1,904	\$2,377	\$2,849
\$575	\$1,208	\$1,706	\$2,204	\$2,702	\$3,199
\$600	\$1,458	\$1,981	\$2,504	\$3,027	\$3,549

*If applicable land lease costs should be deducted from the net return

Assumptions

- Costs to grow, harvest, transport and dry the crop are estimates only. Estimates are based on a sample of contractor rates, other typical industry charges and product costs. All costs exclude GST and were indicative at 31 March, 2023.
- Medium yield growing environment where 94,000 seeds of hybrid P0640 are planted per hectare.
- Wet (harvest) moisture content of 22%.

Important

The information in this tool is general in nature and is not intended to be a representation of actual costs. We do not accept any responsibility or liability (whether as a result of negligence or otherwise) for any loss of any kind that may arise from actions based on the contents of this tool or otherwise in connection with the use of this cost guide.



Hybrid recommendations for grain by region

Region 1

Northland,
North Auckland

Hybrids	CRM range
P8000	<85
P8666	
NEW P8711	86-93
P8805	
P9127	
P9400	94-99
P9721	
P9978	
P0021	
P0362	100-106
P0640	
P0891	
P0900	> 107
P0937	
NEW P1096	

Region 2

South Auckland,
North & Central
Waikato

Hybrids	CRM range
P8000	<85
P8666	
NEW P8711	86-93
P8805	
P9127	
P9400	94-99
P9721	
P9978	
P0021	
P0362	100-106
P0640	
P0891	
P0900	> 107
P0937	
NEW P1096	

Region 3

Coastal BOP,
Gisborne & Northern
Hawke's Bay

Hybrids	CRM range
P8000	<85
P8666	
NEW P8711	86-93
P8805	
P9127	
P9400	94-99
P9721	
P9978	
P0021	
NEW P0200	100-106
P0362	
P0640	
P0891	
P0900	> 107
P0937	
NEW P1096	
P1253	
P1477W	

Region 4

South Waikato, King
Country, Coastal
Taranaki, Rangitikei,
Manawatū, Southern
Wairarapa & Central Hawke's Bay

Hybrids	CRM range
P8000	< 85
NEW P8240	
P8333	
P8500	
P8666	86-93
NEW P8711	
P8805	
P9127	
P9400	94-99
P9721	
P9978	
P0021	
NEW P0200	> 100
P0362	
P0547	

Region 5

Nelson &
Marlborough

Hybrids	CRM range
P8000	< 85
NEW P8240	
P8333	
P8500	
P8666	86-93
NEW P8711	
P8805	
P9127	
P9400	94-99
P9721	
P9978	
P0021	
P0362	> 100
P0547	

Region 6

North &
Mid Canterbury

Hybrids	CRM range
P8000	< 83
NEW P8240	
P8333	
P8500	84-86
P8666	
NEW P8711	> 87
P8805	

Pioneer® brand maize for grain hybrid trait characteristics for 2023-24

Hybrid	Maturity			Yield			Plant and agronomic traits										Grain quality	
	CRM to black layer ¹	CRM to silking ²	CRM to grain harvest moisture (22%) ³	Grain yield for maturity ⁴	Adaption to high population ⁵	Adaption to low population (ear flex) ⁶	Drought tolerance	Stalk strength	Root strength	Stress emergence ⁷	Early growth ⁸	Plant height ⁹	Ear height ¹⁰	Staygreen ¹¹	Husk cover ¹²	Grain drydown ¹³	Grain appearance ¹⁴	Test weight
P8000	80	80	80	9	7	7	6	6	6	6	7	8	5	7	6	8	7	7
NEW P8240	82	82	82	9	7	9	7	6	7	6	6	8	6	8	6	7	7	7
P8333	83	83	83	9	5	9	7	6	5	6	8	8	6	8	6	7	7	7
P8500	85	85	85	9	6	8	7	6	6	6	7	8	6	9	6	8	6	6
P8666	86	86	86	9	5	9	8	6	5	6	8	8	6	8	6	7	7	7
NEW P8711	87	87	87	9	9	9	8	7	7	6	7	7	5	8	6	6	6	7
P8805	88	88	88	9	9	5	8	6	5	6	6	5	6	7	5	8	6	6
P9127	91	91	91	9	7	9	9	6	6	6	6	7	6	7	6	6	5	5
P9400	94	94	94	9	6	9	7	7	7	4	7	8	7	6	5	6	7	7
P9721	97	97	97	9	8	6	8	6	5	7	6	7	6	7	6	9	6	5
P9978	99	99	99	9	9	7	7	6	7	6	7	7	6	7	6	5	6	5
P0021	100	100	100	7	9	6	7	6	7	7	9	6	5	7	6	6	5	6
NEW P0200	102	102	102	9	8	6	7	6	7	5	5	7	5	7	6	6	5	6
P0362	103	103	103	9	9	6	7	6	7	6	6	7	5	8	6	5	6	6
P0547	105	100	101	9	7	6	8	5	6	7	7	6	5	5	5	9	5	6
P0640	106	106	104	9	7	9	7	6	6	6	7	8	6	8	6	8	6	5
P0891	107	107	107	7	9	6	7	8	6	4	6	7	4	7	6	6	9	9
P0900	109	109	109	9	9	7	9	7	7	7	7	7	5	8	6	5	6	6
P0937	109	108	109	9	9	7	8	6	7	7	8	6	4	9	6	7	6	5
P1253	109	109	109	8	6	6	7	6	5	4	6	6	5	7	6	6	9	9
NEW P1096	110	110	110	9	9	7	7	7	7	7	6	6	4	8	6	5	6	6
P1477W	114	111	114	9	9	6	7	8	8	5	6	7	5	8	5	6	8	8

Ratings 9 = Outstanding 1 = Poor - = Insufficient data available NEW = New hybrid
CRM = Comparative Relative Maturity n/a = Not applicable HT/AC = Refer to page 49, point 15
Pioneer sets tough yet honest standards when rating maize hybrids. These ratings are based on comparisons with other Pioneer® brand hybrids, **NOT** competitor hybrids and on average performance across areas of adaptation under normal conditions. The ratings are based on both customer 'side-by-side' paddock experience and research comparison data. Individual seasons and paddock ratings may show a variation from these average comparative ratings. Extreme conditions may adversely affect performance. Notes on performance traits can be found on page 49.

Disease precaution
Growers should balance hybrid yield potential, hybrid maturity and cultural practices (especially stubble management) against their anticipated risk of specific diseases and need for resistance. **In high disease risk situations, consider planting hybrids with resistance ratings of 6 or higher to help reduce risk.** When susceptible hybrids are planted in conditions of high disease pressure, the grower assumes a higher level of risk. If conditions are severe, even hybrids rated as resistant can be adversely affected. Independent of yield reduction, diseases can predispose plants to secondary diseases such as stalk rots. This requires individual field and hybrid monitoring for stalk stability and earlier harvest if necessary.

Trait characteristic notes

Food grade characteristics							Disease resistance ratings ²³								Recommended established plant populations (000's/HA) ^{24, 25, 26}			
Processing use ¹⁵	Kernel hardness ¹⁶	Kernel crown ¹⁷	Kernel red streak ¹⁸	Kernel size ¹⁹	Horny endosperm ²⁰	Kernel colour ²¹	Northern Leaf Blight ²²	Common rust ²²	Eyespot ²²	Head smut	Fusarium ear rot	Diplodia ear rot	Gibberella ear rot	Anthrachnose stalk rot	Challenging yield environments	Medium yield environments	High yield environments	Hybrid
n/a	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	7	6	6	5	-	100	110	115	P8000
n/a	7	6	7	6	6	7	5	5	7	6	-	-	6	-	90	100	115	P8240
n/a	6	6	6	7	6	6	5	6	7	4	-	-	5	-	85	95	105	P8333
n/a	6	5	6	7	5	6	5	5	5	7	6	6	6	-	90	100	115	P8500
n/a	6	5	6	7	6	6	6	6	7	6	-	-	6	-	85	95	105	P8666
n/a	6	6	7	7	6	7	7	7	6	5	5	-	6	-	90	100	115	P8711
n/a	6	5	7	6	5	6	6	7	6	6	6	7	6	-	95	105	110	P8805
n/a	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	7	6	5	5	7	-	85	95	105	P9127
n/a	7	6	5	6	6	7	7	6	6	7	5	7	6	-	85	95	105	P9400
n/a	5	5	6	7	5	7	6	7	7	5	5	6	5	-	88	96	102	P9721
n/a	5	5	6	7	5	6	7	7	6	6	5	-	5	-	85	95	110	P9978
n/a	6	6	7	6	6	7	7	6	5	7	6	7	7	-	85	95	100	P0021
n/a	5	5	7	7	5	7	6	7	7	6	5	-	5	-	85	95	105	P0200
n/a	6	6	7	7	6	6	6	7	7	6	6	6	5	-	85	95	105	P0362
n/a	6	5	6	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	4	4	88	96	102	P0547
n/a	5	5	6	6	4	6	7	7	6	6	5	6	7	-	85	95	100	P0640
HT/AC	9	7	7	5	8	5	6	6	6	5	5	5	6	5	85	95	105	P0891
n/a	6	6	7	7	5	6	7	7	7	7	4	-	5	-	80	90	110	P0900
n/a	5	6	6	6	4	6	7	6	6	5	5	5	4	-	85	95	110	P0937
HT/AC	9	8	9	5	9	5	5	6	5	5	6	6	5	6	88	94	100	P1253
n/a	5	6	7	7	5	6	7	6	6	5	6	-	5	-	85	95	110	P1096
HT/AC	9	7	7	7	7	8	7	6	7	5	6	5	6	6	85	95	100	P1477W

The hybrid descriptions in all New Zealand Pioneer® brand products publications conform to strict word usage protocols approved and used by Pioneer around the world. We do not use descriptive adjectives randomly or loosely. We have a policy of avoiding exaggerated superlatives in product descriptions or product discussions. The following words are those approved for use in the product performance descriptions listed on pages 14-24 of this catalogue.

Trait ratings	Word and numeric alignment for yield & agronomic traits	Trait ratings	Word and numeric alignment for disease traits
8-9	Excellent, exceptional, outstanding, superb, impressive, industry-leading.	8-9	Highly resistant, excellent, exceptional, outstanding, impressive.
7	Superior, very good, strong, sound, reliable, stable, dependable, consistent.	6-7	Resistant, superior, strong, very good.
6	Good, above average, sound, reliable, stable, dependable, consistent.	4-5	Intermediate, moderate, adequate, acceptable.
5	Average, acceptable, adequate, moderate.	1-3	Susceptible (caution on use if disease is prevalent).
4	Acceptable, slightly below average.		
1-3	Marginal, susceptible, below average.		

Comparative Relative Maturity (CRM) to black layer:
Based on the GDUs required for a hybrid to reach black layer (physiological maturity) relative to other Pioneer® brand hybrids. It gives an indication of whether a hybrid reaches black layer early or late relative to its CRM to Harvest Moisture rating. Black layer refers to the stage of grain fill when the plant is physiologically mature and no further grain filling or weight increment will take place. Important: To help decide if a new hybrid fits your area's growing season, compare its black layer rating to a hybrid that you have planted previously, or one that is successfully used in your area.

CRM to silking:
Based on the Growing Degree Units (GDUs) required for a hybrid to silk (flower) relative to other Pioneer® brand hybrids. It gives an indication of whether a hybrid flowers early or late relative to its CRM to Harvest Moisture rating. Hybrids with an early flowering CRM compared with black layer CRM will generally be better adapted to cool seasons within their area of adaption.

CRM to harvest moisture:
Based on the grain moisture content at harvest, relative to other Pioneer® brand hybrids. The higher the rating, the longer the growing season required for the hybrid. It serves as a relative guide to compare the maturity difference between Pioneer® brand hybrids to the grain harvest moisture stage, stated as 22% moisture.

Grain yield for maturity:
Pioneer hybrid trait comparisons should only be made within a range of + or - 4 CRM.

Adaptability to high population:
A measure of the mix of genetic factors that permit a maize plant to withstand the stresses of high population and still give good standability and a high yielding ear of fine quality grain on every plant.

Adaptability to low population:
An indicator of a hybrid's ability to compensate (flex) ear size for low planting rates or loss from poor emergence or insect attack. Fertility levels and moisture must be adequate for 'flex' to be effective.

Stress emergence:
These ratings are based on data collected from local replicated small plot trials planted early and at depth into wet and cold conditions and vigour ratings on New Zealand commercial seed provided by Pioneer's regional seed laboratory. All seed supplied to the market is expected to establish excellent plant stands if planted well and under normal germination conditions. Ratings of 7-9 indicate very good potential to establish normal stands under stressful environmental conditions of cold, wet soils. A 5-6 rating indicates good potential to establish normal stands under moderate stress conditions; and ratings of 1-4 indicate the hybrid has below average potential to establish normal stands under stress and should not be used if severe wet and cold conditions are expected after planting. Hybrids with high ratings are best adapted to early planting but due care to apply best agronomic practices is still required.

Early growth ratings:
Taken when two leaf collars are visible.

Plant height:
9 = Tall, 1 = Short.

Ear height:
9 = High, 1 = Low.

Staygreen:
A measure of a hybrid's ability to stay as a green growing plant leading up to black layer (physiological maturity). It is a measure of late season plant health and drought tolerance which may affect plant standability and suitability for silage. A high rating indicates a wider "harvest window" providing a greater degree of harvest timing flexibility.

Husk cover:
Measures the length of the husk leaves extending past the end of the cob, with a loose husk cover scoring one point lower for the same length of husk cover.

Grain drydown:
Scores represent the rate of moisture loss after physiological maturity. Hybrids with high scores dry faster. They are not recommended for early harvest where planted as a full season hybrid.

Grain appearance:
In the bin scored down for mould, cracks, red streak, etc.

Processing use:
AC = Hybrids suitable for alkaline products.
HT = Hybrids with hard texture, suitable for dry milling of hard textured grain such as grits.

Kernel hardness:
Relative rating of absolute density of kernels determined by stenvert analysis.
1-3 = Soft (low density). 4-5 = Average.
6-7 = Hard. 8-9 = Very hard.

Kernel crown:
Indicates size of dent with a higher score indicating smoother (flintier) crown on the kernel.

Kernel red streak:
Indicates the tendency of the kernels to red streak with a higher score indicating less tendency.

Kernel size:
A higher score indicates greater percentage of larger kernels.

Horny endosperm:
Score determined from visual observation of cross sectioned kernels. Score indicates that portion of the kernel with hard translucent starch suitable for dry milling into maize grits. Higher scores indicate higher percentage of hard endosperm.

Kernel colour (yellow):
Higher score indicates a pale coloured kernel. Lower score indicates a darker colour. Scores in the 5-7 range indicate a more desirable yellow coloured grain.

Northern Leaf Blight (NLB), Common Rust and Eyespot:
Caution: In conditions where leaf disease risks are high, growers should only consider planting hybrids with at least moderate resistance ratings of 6 or higher for these diseases.

Disease resistance ratings:

8-9 = Highly resistant.	6-7 = Resistant.
4-5 = Moderately resistant.	1-3 = Susceptible.
- = Insufficient data available.	

Disease ratings are based on overseas and New Zealand observations. Scores are based on visual assessment only and not on yield reduction data.

Cool environments:
In cool environments including high altitude sites (greater than approximately 150 m/500 ft above sea level) select your growing environment using the definitions below, then increase populations to the next level e.g. for P9721 in a medium yield environment at high altitude, plant to achieve 102,000 plants per hectare.

Established plant populations:
These assume good seed establishment conditions. If you are planting very early or into a less than ideal seed bed or where insect pressure may be high (e.g. a shorter than optimum fallow period), seeding rates may need to be increased to compensate for reduced establishment due to field losses.

Growing environment definitions:
May include some or all of the following characteristics:

- **Challenging yield environments (CYE)**
 - Typically light, sandy or shallow soils of low fertility, low moisture retention, and predictably low summer rainfall (drought-prone environments).
 - High cob or leaf disease pressure.
- **Medium yield environments (MYE)**
 - Average fertility soils with predictably adequate summer rainfall and good moisture retention.
 - Continuously cropped soils.
 - Medium to low cob or leaf disease pressure.
- **High yield environments (HYE)**
 - Typically deeper, highly fertile and well structured soils with good moisture retention.
 - Predictably good summer rainfall, shelter from high wind run.
 - Good soils straight out of long term pasture.
 - Low or no cob or leaf disease pressure.

Publication abbreviations

ha = hectare
cm = centimetres
m = metres
km = kilometres
t/ha = tonnes per hectare
kg = kilogram
kg/ha = kilograms per hectare
kg/ha/year = kilograms per hectare per year
kg/hl = kilograms per hectolitre
\$/ha = \$ per hectare
\$/tonne = \$ per tonne



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