

## Maize silage growing and harvesting cost guideline

Recent research has shown that high fertility dairy farm paddocks including those with a history of effluent application may require no additional fertiliser. Different yield environments also influence the recommended planting rate for Pioneer® brand maize silage hybrids (see page 18).

The table below gives indicative maize silage costings for both high and average fertility maize silage growing environments. High fertility environments include dairy paddocks coming out of good quality long-term pasture as well as paddocks with a history of effluent application. Average fertility environments include run-out pasture paddocks and repeat cropping blocks. Always soil test maize paddocks and apply nutrients according to the results.

Use the “My costs” column in the table below to enter your own growing and harvesting costs for the coming maize growing season.

**Table 6: 2010/11 Average costs (exclusive of GST)**

		Average costs (\$/ha)		My costs (\$/ha)
		Average fertility	High fertility	My farm
<b>Growing cost</b>				
Pre planting	Cost of leased land	?	?	▶
	Soil test, other	7	7	▶
	Spraying out pasture (incl. glyphosate)	76	76	▶
	Lime @ 2.5 t/ha + application	138		▶
	Base fertiliser	480		▶
	Cultivation	348	348	▶
Planting	Pioneer® brand 34P88 maize seed @ 1.30 <sup>1</sup> or 1.35 <sup>2</sup> bags/ha	444	461	▶
	FAR maize seed levy (\$7.2/80,000 kernels @ 1.30 <sup>1</sup> or 1.35 <sup>2</sup> bags/ha)	9	10	▶
	Seed insecticide treatment (Poncho®*) @ 1.30 <sup>1</sup> or 1.35 <sup>2</sup> bags/ha	147	153	▶
	Starter fertiliser	188		▶
	Planting	141	141	▶
Post planting	Pre emergence weed control (herbicide + application)	130	130	▶
	Sidedress application	69		▶
	Sidedress nitrogen	160		▶
	Interest on maize expenditure (7 months @ 7%)	95	54	▶
<b>Total growing cost</b>		<b>\$2,432</b>	<b>\$1,380</b>	▶
<b>Harvest cost</b>				
Harvesting	Harvesting and stacking	968	968	▶
	Covering	169	169	▶
	Pioneer® brand 1132 maize specific inoculant	263	263	▶
<b>Total harvest cost</b>		<b>\$1,400</b>	<b>\$1,400</b>	▶
<b>Total growing and harvest costs</b>		<b>\$3,832</b>	<b>\$2,780</b>	▶

\*Registered Trademark of Bayer CropScience.

<sup>1</sup> Average fertility

<sup>2</sup> High fertility

## Maize silage cost

**Table 7: Drymatter and megajoules of metabolisable energy**

Maize silage yield (tDM) in the stack	Average fertility		High fertility	
	Maize silage cost per kgDM in the stack (c/kgDM)	Maize silage cost per MJME (c/MJME)	Maize silage cost per kgDM in the stack (c/kgDM)	Maize silage cost per MJME (c/MJME)
16	23.9	2.22	-	-
18	21.3	1.97	15.4	1.43
20	19.2	1.77	13.9	1.29
22	17.4	1.61	12.6	1.17
24	16.0	1.48	11.6	1.07
26	14.7	1.36	10.7	0.99
28	13.7	1.27	9.9	0.92
30	-	-	9.3	0.86

For the latest information visit [www.pioneer.co.nz](http://www.pioneer.co.nz)

Assumptions:

1. Cost to grow, harvest and store the crop are estimates only.
2. Average land rentals have not been included because of large regional variations (provision has been made for you to consider land rental in your own costing column).
3. The costs and benefits of regrassing have not been included.
4. Cost for Pioneer® brand 1132 is based on inoculating a 22 tDM/ha crop.
5. Farmers growing Pioneer® brand maize for silage for sale are usually responsible for costs up to and including the nitrogen sidedressing application.
6. Maize silage cost per MJME assumes an average maize silage energy content of 10.8 MJME/kgDM.
7. The amount of pasture lost during the maize growing season will vary between paddocks, farms and districts. The value of pasture lost during the maize growing season has not been considered in the calculation of the maize silage drymatter cost.
8. **Costs are estimates based on a sample of contractor rates, other typical industry charges and product costs. All costs exclude GST and are indicative at 1 April 2010. See [www.pioneer.co.nz](http://www.pioneer.co.nz) for updated costs.**

