PIONEER

A YATES FAMILY BUSINESS

maize for Silage

2026-2027

Maize fits the big picture

The Numan family focus on getting the priorities right

A new biological advantage

Staying safe around silage

Leading crop-specific inoculant range

PIONEER®
BRAND · PRODUCTS

Welcome to the 2026-27 season issue of the Pioneer Maize for Silage Catalogue which contains information on our latest maize, summer forage and inoculant product line-up. It includes a feature article on silage safety (pages 30-35). We are grateful to Australian silage stack collapse survivor Rebecca Ford, who has allowed us to share her harrowing story. Thanks also to the Numan (page 10), Porteous (page 36) and Williams (page 48) families who have shared the stories behind their successful farming businesses.

The dairy industry's renewed focus on productivity highlights the importance of maximising per-cow performance. Whether you are looking to improve cow condition, feed transition cows better, fully feed milkers or meet youngstock liveweight targets, maize silage can play an important role. Adding a feedpad that doubles as a stand-off area can further enhance profitability and sustainability (see page 4).

This season, we are pleased to introduce four new silage hybrids across a wide maturity range – P9091 (90 CRM), P0283 (102 CRM), P0450 (104 CRM) and P17822 (115 CRM). These new products join P0710 and P1185, which were released last season, further strengthening our silage line-up. Every new product has been rigorously evaluated through our comprehensive hybrid trialling programme, and only those that demonstrate agronomic, yield or silage quality advantages under New Zealand conditions are brought to market. This disciplined approach gives us confidence that the hybrids featured in this catalogue deliver genuine on-farm value.

Last season we celebrated 50 years since the signing of the seed production and distribution agreement between Pioneer Hi-Bred and my father, Philip. This year marks another significant milestone - the centennial anniversary of the Pioneer brand and its global business. Sincere thanks to the generations of farmers and those others who supply and support them, who have helped shape the company's development through the years.

The Pioneer team joins me in wishing you all the very best for the season ahead. We value your continued support for Pioneer® brand products and remain committed to helping you extract maximum value from them. If we can assist you in any way, please don't hesitate to get in touch with your local Pioneer representative.

With warmest regards,

William Yates
Managing Director

In this issue

MAIZE FOR SILAGE 2026-2027

Farm success stories

Inside Pioneer

Pioneer® brand products

Calculators & guides

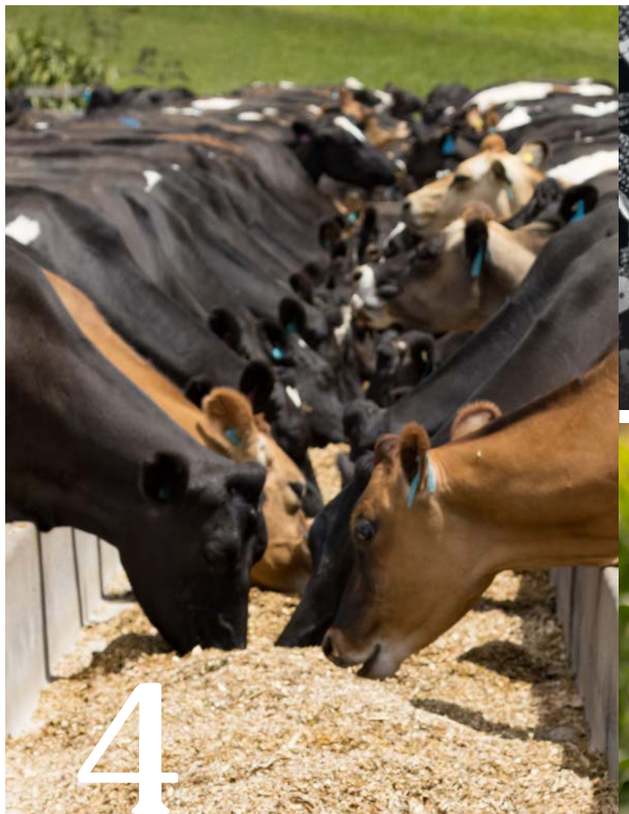
PIONEER LONG LOOK

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.



Harvest more. Waste less. *Profit more.*

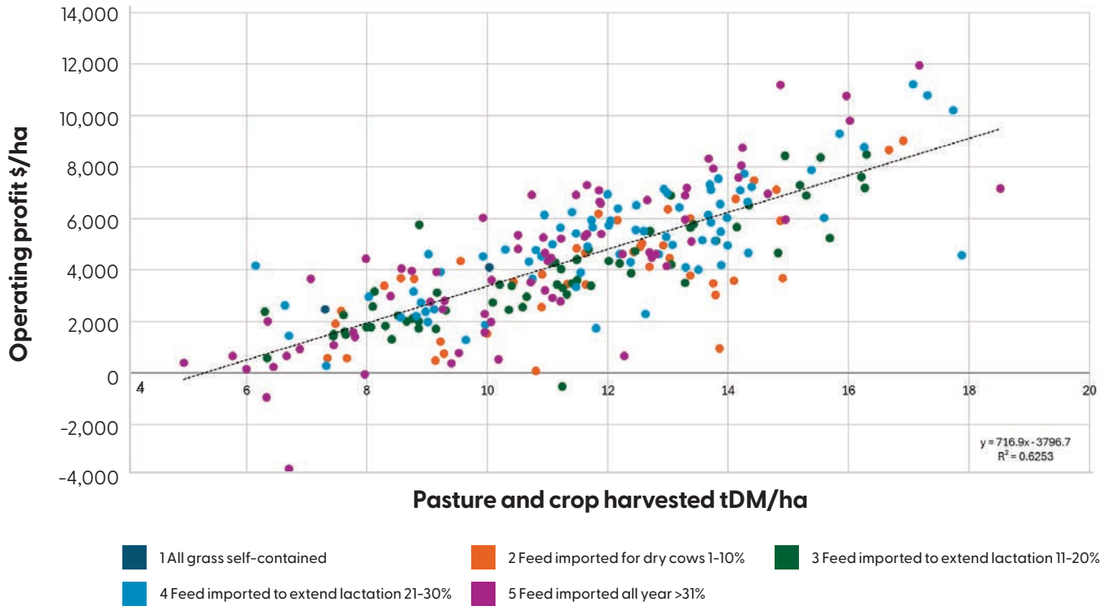
In an environment where margins matter more than ever, the most profitable systems are not necessarily the most complex; they are the ones that protect their pasture base, grow high quality feed, and make every kilogram of dry matter they grow or buy count.

More feed harvested equals more profit

DairyBase data collected from owner operator farms in the 2024–25 season shows a strong positive relationship between pasture and crop harvested and operating profit per hectare.

While every farm system is different, the trend is unmistakable: farms harvesting more dry matter per hectare are, on average, more profitable.

Figure 1: Operating profit per ha vs pasture and crop harvested[1].



[1] Dairybase data published in Dairy Country Autumn 2026 see https://dairycountry.co.nz/dairy-country-autumn-2026/

Why maize silage stacks up

Maize silage is one of the most reliable and cost effective sources of homegrown feed. Its value lies not just in its yield, but also in its consistency and the fact that it can be stored and fed when it is most needed. Well managed homegrown maize crops routinely produce 20–26 tDM/ha in an 8-month growing season. By comparison, whole farm pasture harvested averages closer to 10-14 tDM/ha/year for non-irrigated dairy farms, and around 16 tDM/ha/year for an irrigated Canterbury farm. This means maize silage offers the opportunity to lift total feed harvested on a portion of the milking platform.

From a cow perspective, maize silage provides a source of high energy, low protein feed that complements pasture well. When used strategically, it supports body condition, helps manage feed deficits, and underpins higher per-cow performance. The low calcium and potassium content of maize silage makes it an ideal base for low dietary-cation-anion difference (DCAD) diets.

Just as importantly, maize stacks up from an environmental perspective. One kilogram of nitrogen fertiliser can produce around 55 kgDM of maize silage, but only 15 kgDM of pasture[2]. Growing maize silage is an excellent way to utilise surplus nutrients whilst producing low-cost dry matter. Maize silage also has significant greenhouse gas reduction benefits. Feeding 5 kgDM of maize silage has a lower greenhouse gas emission than feeding 1 kgDM of palm kernel expeller.

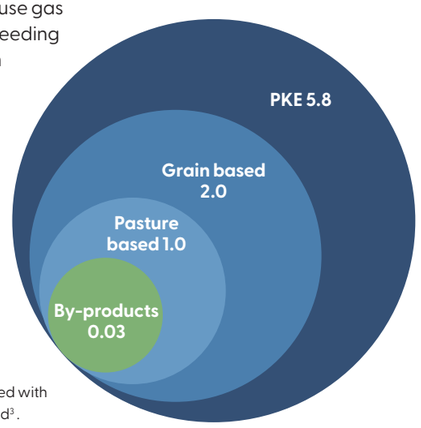


Figure 2: Relative greenhouse gas emissions associated with supplementary feed[3].

Feedpads a proven investment

Well designed feedpads, especially those that meet New Zealand's Dairy Cattle Welfare Standards for off-paddock facilities are a long-term investment that protects pastures, reduces supplementary feed waste, and improves cow comfort. Maize silage is ideally suited to feedpad systems. It is easy to handle and can be fed out quickly and accurately. When maize silage and feed pads are used together, several benefits emerge:

Reduce pasture pugging

Keeping cows off wet paddocks reduces pugging and improves pasture persistence. Pugging events can reduce pasture production by up to 40–50% in the following season. By using a feedpad and feeding maize silage during high risk periods, farmers protect future pasture growth and lift total pasture harvested across the year.

Decrease overgrazing

When feed supply is tight due to summer drought or cold winter weather, it can be hard to prevent overgrazing. On-off grazing can help limit pasture intakes, while feeding maize silage and other supplements on the feedpad will ensure production is not compromised.

Reduced supplement wastage

Feeding supplements such as maize silage and pasture silage on a pad significantly improves utilisation compared with feeding in paddocks. For a 400–500 cow herd feeding several hundred tonnes of silage annually, reducing wastage by even 10–15% can be worth tens of thousands of dollars each year.

Improved feed efficiency

Cows that get some of their feed allowance on a feedpad expend less energy walking and grazing, so more energy can be converted into milk or body condition. This is particularly relevant when pasture supply is limited and break size is large.

[2] Williams et al, 2010. Using maize silage to reduce the impact of dairy farm systems on water use and quality in New Zealand. Proceedings of the Australasian Dairy Science Symposium, pp. 74–77. [3] Fonterra 2023. Our approach to on-farm emissions May 2023

The Pioneer Feedpad Calculator can help determine whether a feedpad is a good investment for your farm system. Contact your local Pioneer Farm Systems Manager to look at the numbers for your farm.

Better cow comfort

Covered feedpads improve cow comfort by providing shelter from heat, rain and wind. Where suitable bedding is provided (eg compost, sand or rubber) and the resting area is adequate, cows can remain indoors for extended periods if required.

Higher labour efficiency

Many farmers report that feeding maize silage on a pad is simpler and less stressful than managing grazed crops especially in poor weather. Combined with timed gates or cow-flow technology, feedpads can also reduce time spent moving stock. Using a feedpad reduces labour and tractor running hours when compared to feeding silage in the paddock.

Better environmental outcomes

When integrated with appropriate effluent capture and storage, feedpads can reduce nutrient losses. New Zealand studies show that off paddock facilities can cut nitrate leaching by 25–55%, depending on system design and management[4].

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[4]Fenton et al. 2011. The impact of off paddock dairy cow wintering systems on nitrogen losses to water. Proceedings of the New Zealand Grassland Association, 73: 43–48.

The real farm behind Tractor Dave

For Chris and Rachel Numan, building a profitable and resilient dairy system has always been about getting the fundamentals right and then refining them over time.

The couple, who have two sons, Jack (8) and Oscar (6), farm 190 effective hectares at Pokuru, near Te Awamutu in the Waikato. In the 2024-25 season their 700-cow Kiwi-cross herd produced just over 346,000 kgMS, equating to around 1,820 kgMS per hectare and approximately 500 kg MS per cow.

The farm sits firmly in the System 4 to 5 range, with pasture as the foundation.

"Pasture is always the key focus for us" says Chris. "Supplements are used to complement pasture not replace it".

Chris has used maize silage "pretty much my entire farming career". Over time, it has become one of the core feeds underpinning production, cost control and animal health.

Currently the farm feeds around one tonne of maize silage dry matter per cow per year. Some of that is contracted in, while increasing volumes are now grown on farm, particularly on paddocks with poor pasture persistence or heavy effluent history.

"For us it's about having a base supplementary feed" Chris explains. "It allows us to keep our production stable on a year-to-year basis. There's not much movement in there, maybe between three and five per cent".

While the herd is spring calving, late calvers and some of the best empty cows are milked through the winter months, which means the farm milks year-round.

Transition cows are fed around 5 kgDM of maize silage as part of a dietary cation anion difference (DCAD) based transition diet, a practice Chris says has contributed to a marked reduction in metabolic issues.

"Since we started that probably six to eight years ago, we've hugely reduced our milk fever".

After calving, maize silage is fed on the feedpad in a mixed ration, which includes palm kernel expeller (PKE) and maize dry distillers' grain (golden DDG) if required for protein.

RIGHT Chris and Rachel Numan.
ABOVE Rachel is the creator of the Tractor Dave children's book series.

Farm walk

- Milk 700-cow Kiwi-cross herd on 190 ha (effective)
- In 2024-25 season, produced 346,000 kgMS or 500 kgMS/cow
- Feed 1 tDM maize silage per cow per year
- Hybrid grown: P9978

Typically, the maize silage bunker is closed in November once pasture growth rates outstrip demand and opened again in the summer once the feed deficit exceeds 4 kgDM per cow.

While PKE has played an ongoing role in the farm's supplementary feeding regime, a recent challenging dry season has led the couple to reassess how much they feed as part of the planned programme.

"We fed a large amount of extra PKE to get through the drought last year and as a consequence, we lost a couple of cows at dry-off to copper toxicity" says Chris.

Reducing reliance on high PKE intakes while maintaining energy supply has reinforced maize silage's role in the system.

"We know what it costs us, and we can use it at a range of feeding rates to supplement any animal on the farm whenever we need to" says Chris. "That's definitely an advantage in a system that's designed to deliver stable year on year production".

Two years ago, Chris planted maize in some of his poorest performing pasture paddocks, relying solely on effluent nutrients to feed the crop.

"We grew a 28 tDM/ha crop on those paddocks with no fertiliser added whatsoever".

The result exceeded expectations, not only in terms of yield but also in pasture recovery.

"My aim was to improve pasture persistence. The maize was kind of secondary".

The paddocks came out of maize into grass and held up well through the following dry season.

"That sort of sealed it for us. If we can continue to target poor pasture paddocks and get high maize yields with no fertiliser, then growing on farm is highly profitable for us".

For on-farm crops, Chris is looking for a maize hybrid that will deliver yield stability and handle high wind levels.

"The farm is on a high point in the area between Mt Pirongia and Mt Kakepuku" says Chris. "When the wind comes through, we bear the brunt of it".

For the past few seasons, Chris has planted Pioneer® brand P9978.

Beyond genetics, ongoing support has been a key factor behind the couple sticking with Pioneer.

"It's a reputable brand and the support from the Pioneer team over the years has added a lot of value to our business".

Chris and Rachel came to the farm in 2012, entered an equity partnership in 2018 and bought the farm at the end of May 2025, completing a long-term goal that began when Chris left school.

> "We grew a 28 tDM/ha crop on those paddocks with no fertiliser added whatsoever. The result exceeded expectations, not only in terms of yield but also in pasture recovery"

"Buying the farm was a huge milestone. It's been the key goal since I left school".

As well as rearing calves, Rachel brings a unique skill set to the business. A trained veterinarian, she provides in-house animal health support, AI services and pregnancy testing, reducing costs while lifting performance.

"Having an on-farm vet is awesome. It's very complementary to the system".

Rachel is also the author behind the Tractor Dave children's book series, inspired by life on their dairy farm. What began as stories for their sons has grown into a nationwide initiative supporting food security and environmental projects.

While the farm's financial success has helped the couple achieve their dream of farm ownership, family balance plays an important role in future planning. The recent integration of CowManager into the system has helped remove the reliance on Chris being in the shed or carrying out heat detection for the entire mating period".

"We've got young kids, so we are trying to simplify the system, so we don't miss those golden years".

With full ownership achieved, the focus now is on consolidation, system refinement and sustainability. Maize silage remains one of the key components of that approach, delivering cost control, animal health benefits and flexibility in a system designed to perform across seasons.

"That's where maize comes in now" says Chris. "It helps us meet production targets, manage cost, and keep the system stable".

OPPOSITE LEFT Chris Numan and Pioneer Area Manager Matt Towers.

Maize *hybrids*

From idea to product, Pioneer® brand maize hybrids are developed with one clear focus – helping you succeed on farm.

Pioneer breeders start with one of the world's largest germplasm libraries. Next, they use predictive breeding tools alongside advanced conventional breeding techniques to identify hybrids with the potential to lead the industry. Every hybrid is rigorously assessed for yield, quality and agronomic performance at each stage of the advancement programme. Fewer than 0.01 per cent of new hybrids earn a place in a Pioneer seed bag.

Here in New Zealand, we test the latest Pioneer maize genetics extensively across different growing regions. This local trialling allows us to identify superior performers and confidently position each hybrid in the environments where it will deliver the best results.

Whether you're farming in Northland, the lower South Island or anywhere in between, you'll find the right product for your paddock in this season's Pioneer line-up.

Pioneer Optimum® AQUAmax® hybrids are bred to deliver resilience in challenging conditions while fully responding when growing conditions are favourable. These hybrids incorporate key traits that support improved root development, silk emergence and overall crop stability to help manage periods of moisture stress.

Optimum® AQUAmax®

This season, we're pleased to introduce P0450 (page 20) as the latest addition to our high performing Optimum® AQUAmax® silage hybrid range.

Meet the latest from Pioneer

Introducing the newest additions to the Pioneer maize silage hybrid portfolio. These products have demonstrated yield, agronomic and/or quality advantages over current Pioneer hybrids in local trials. The result is a more reliable feed supply, more milk in the vat and a whole new level of profitability.

PIONEER® BRAND P9091

STRONG STARTER, POWERFUL FINISHER

See page 18

PIONEER® BRAND P0283

GREAT LOOKS, STRONG AGRONOMICS, OUTSTANDING FEED VALUE

See page 20

PIONEER® BRAND P0450

AGRONOMIC CONFIDENCE, SILAGE EXCELLENCE

See page 20

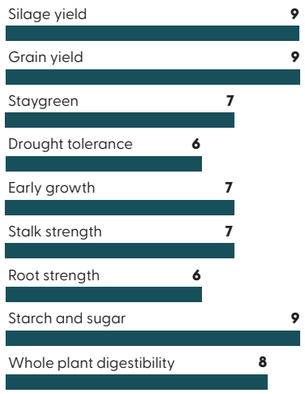
PIONEER® BRAND P17822

FULL-SEASON POWER DELIVERS YIELD AND FOLIAR HEALTH

See page 23

PIONEER® P7179

CRM 71



Quickest option for the coolest growing regions.

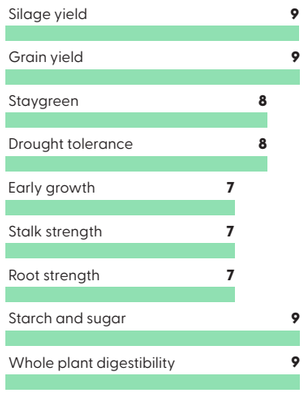
Similar in type but very much quicker to harvest than **P7364**.

- Combines superior early growth, drought tolerance and staygreen.
- Tall with low ear placement and strong standability.
- Delivers high yields of quality silage in the coolest maize growing regions.
- Plant at similar plant populations used for **P7364**.

An important earlier companion hybrid to **P7364** for Central Plateau, high-altitude Taranaki, and high-altitude and high-latitude South Island growing regions.

PIONEER® P7364

CRM 73



The standard for yield and earliness.

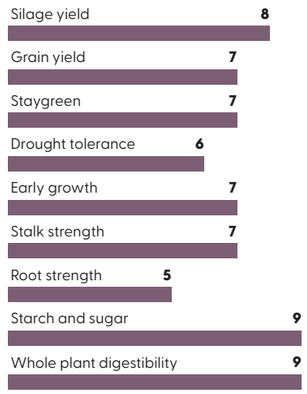
Has better husk cover and is quicker to harvest than **P7524**.

- Dependable agronomic package with high ratings for early growth, drought tolerance and staygreen.
- Moderate in plant height with low ear placement and superior standability.
- Delivers high silage yields, for maturity, with superb energy and digestibility ratings.
- In medium to high potential situations, plant 5,000 plants/hectare more than applied in the past for **P7524**.

Replaces **P7524** for growers requiring a hybrid earlier than **P7647** or **P8086**.

PIONEER® P7647

CRM 76



Delivers superior yields of top-quality silage.

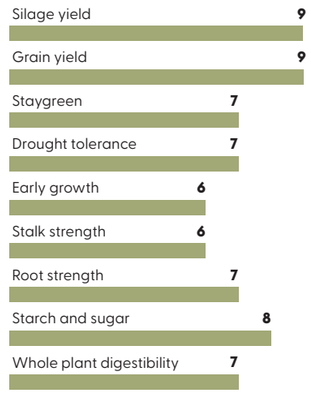
Expands the options for cooler maize growing regions.

- Combines strong early growth and staygreen to deliver silage with excellent energy and digestibility ratings.
- **P7647** is slightly quicker to reach harvest dry matter and is higher yielding than **P7524**, which it replaced.
- Tall for maturity, so should be planted to achieve plant populations between 105,000 and 115,000 plants per hectare depending on paddock yield expectation.

South Island option for growers looking for a hybrid maturity between **P7364** and **P8086**.

PIONEER® P8086

CRM 80



Reliable early with excellent feed value.

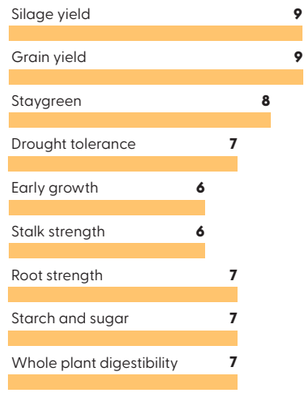
Similar in type, maturity, and management requirements to **P8000** which it replaced.

- A long cob packed with deep dent grain to produce silage with high digestibility and energy.
- Moderate in height with low ear placement, strong standability, drought tolerance, staygreen and Northern Leaf Blight ratings.
- **P8086** delivers higher silage yields than **P8000**.

Grow alongside **P7647** or **P8240** depending on maturity and disease resistance requirements.

PIONEER® P8240

CRM 82



Bulk and energy to fill the vat.

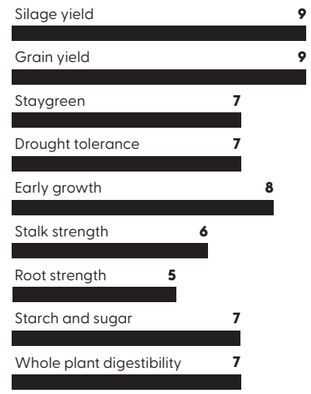
P8240 is a very tall, high-yielding silage and grain hybrid backed by strong drought tolerance, staygreen and standability.

- Delivers top silage yields, with superior feed quality for optimal milk production.
- **P8240** has a balanced agronomic package including superior roots which are a real asset in this maturity.
- Established plant populations should be matched to assessed paddock yield potential.
- Where Northern Leaf Blight is a seasonal concern, consider planting **P8086** or **P8711** depending on maturity requirements.

Well adapted to Central Plateau, Taranaki, Lower North Island and South Island growing regions.

PIONEER® P8333

CRM 83



Highly productive mid-maturity option.

P8333 is a tall, bulky plant with a long grain-filled ear, supported by strong all-round agronomics, superior drought tolerance and staygreen.

- Delivers top silage yields for maturity, with impressive energy and digestibility.
- An important mid-maturity option between **P8086** and **P8666**.
- Optimum established populations are approximately 5,000 plants per hectare less than applied for **P8086**.

Yields particularly well in the South Island and in the cooler regions of the Lower North Island where this maturity is required.

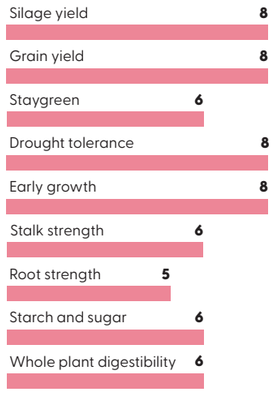
Pioneer hybrid trait comparison ratings are only valid within a range of + or - 4 CRM. These descriptions mainly feature product strengths. When choosing hybrids, also review carefully the trait ratings found in the table on page 58. Contact your local Pioneer Area Manager or merchant for further advice.

See pages 56–57 for days to harvest and growing regions.

NEW

PIONEER® P8666

CRM 86



Grows well, yields very well and feeds even better.

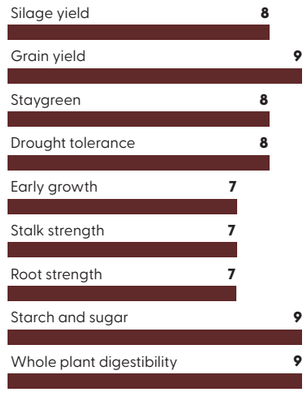
A bulky plant with superior early growth, drought tolerance, and strong all-round agronomics.

- Produces silage with high grain content that cows will thrive on.
- Plant to establish 100,000 to 115,000 plants per hectare.

Widely adapted from Ashburton to Dargaville.

PIONEER® P8711

CRM 87



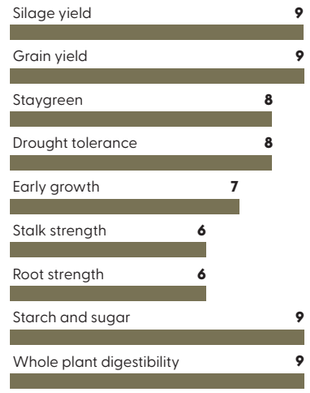
Yield with superb quality.

A very tall hybrid with superior roots and stalks.

- High ratings for drought, Northern Leaf Blight, Rust and staygreen deliver season-long silage appeal and yield stability. These all combine to support a wide harvest window.
- Produces silage with excellent energy and digestibility desired by high productivity herds.
- Research results show **P8711** is most productive in northern regions from Northland to Hawke's Bay, particularly where standability and Northern Leaf Blight are significant concerns.

PIONEER® P9091

CRM 90



Strong starter, powerful finisher.

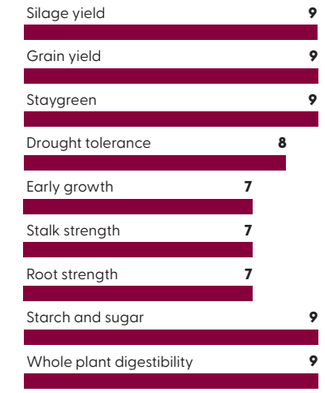
Important maturity option between **P8711** and **P92575**.

- Delivers excellent silage quality with higher yields than **P92575** and **P9400**.
- Strong stress emergence and early growth result in rapid row cover.
- Tall with low ear insertion, strong roots and stalks.
- Strong resistance to Northern Leaf Blight, Rust and Eyespot.
- Excellent drought tolerance, staygreen and foliar health deliver late-season appeal and a wide harvest window.

Widely adapted where a hybrid of this maturity is required.

PIONEER® P92575

CRM 92



Solid, balanced hybrid, with top-of-the-line foliar health.

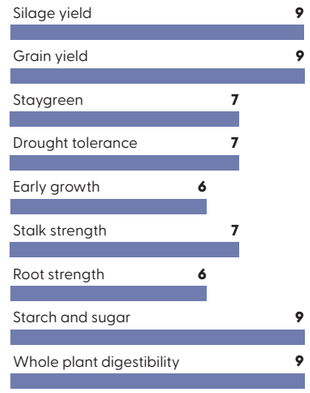
Plant where Northern Leaf Blight, Rust, standability and drought tolerance are seasonal concerns.

- Delivers higher silage yields than **P9400**.
- Moderately tall with strong agronomics, superior roots, and stalks.
- Late-season staygreen and plant health delivers a wide harvest window and silage with exceptional digestibility and energy.

Adapted to all North Island growing regions where this maturity meets the grower's objectives.

PIONEER® P9650

CRM 96



Security with performance.

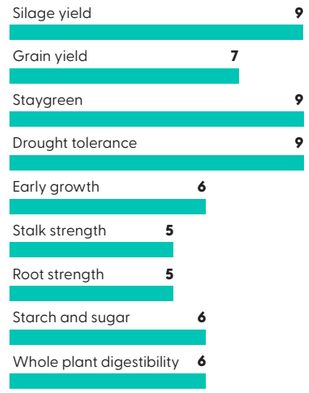
Offers yield stability for silage and grain.

- Moderate in plant height with an erect leaf habit, strong standability and drought tolerance.
- Agronomically balanced with strong Northern Leaf Blight resistance while producing excellent silage quality.
- Waikato research trials show **P9650** was 1% wetter at harvest than **P9400** but delivered 800 kgDM/ha more yield.

A useful mid-maturity option, between **P92575** and **P9978**. Widely adapted to North Island growing regions.

PIONEER® P9911

CRM 99



Top yielding, drought buster.

A key maturity option in the Optimum® AQUAmax® range provides growers more yield per drop – rain or shine.

- Tall, showy hybrid delivering yield stability in this maturity.
- A widely grown, imposing all-round hybrid.
- Top agronomics for reliable yields.

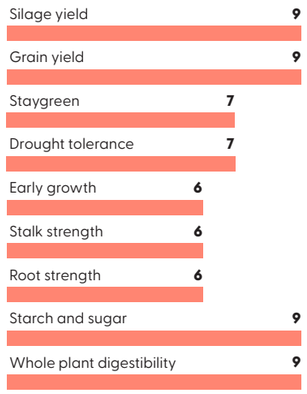
Where Northern Leaf Blight is a concern, consider planting **P9650**, **P9978** or **P0283**.

Pioneer hybrid trait comparison ratings are only valid within a range of + or - 4 CRM. These descriptions mainly feature product strengths. When choosing hybrids, also review carefully the trait ratings found in the table on page XX. Contact your local Pioneer Area Manager or merchant for further advice.

See pages 56-57 for days to harvest and growing regions.

PIONEER® P9978

CRM 99

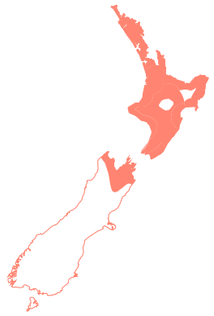


Defensive. Stable. Productive.

P9978 delivers a great all-round package with superior foliar health and silage eye-appeal.

- A tall plant with low ear placement, strong roots and stalks, superior drought tolerance, staygreen and Northern Leaf Blight resistance.
- Delivers top silage yields, in this maturity, with excellent feed quality.
- When planting early or into cold, wet soils, switch to **P9650**, **P9911** or **P0283**.

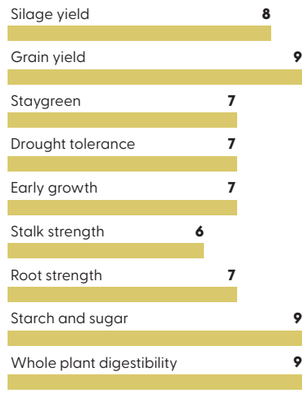
Now widely grown in all North Island growing regions where this maturity is appropriate.



NEW

PIONEER® P0283

CRM 102



Great looks, strong agronomics, outstanding feed value.

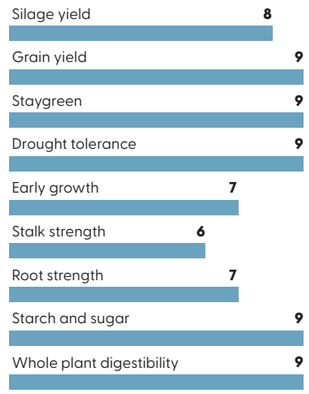
- Strong emergence and early growth.
- Dependable drought tolerance, all-round agronomics, foliar health and staygreen combine to deliver a wide harvest window.
- Waikato silage yield performance is like **P9911**, around 1% wetter at harvest but has better foliar health and silage quality.
- Excellent whole plant digestibility and energy content.

Plant alongside **P9978**, **P0450** and **P0710**.

NEW

PIONEER® P0450

CRM 104



Agronomic confidence, silage excellence.

Very strong all-round agronomic, disease resistance and silage quality profiles.

- Moderate plant height with very low ear placement, together with superior stalks & roots deliver great standability.
- Superior Northern Leaf Blight resistance, exceptional drought tolerance and staygreen deliver season-long eye appeal and yield stability.
- Silage has the highest ratings for digestibility and energy.
- Most productive from Kaitaia to Napier where a hybrid of this maturity is required.

Plant alongside **P9978**, **P0283** or **P0640** depending on maturity and trait requirements.

Optimum® AQUAmax®

PIONEER® P0640

CRM 106

Leaf disease champion delivering silage yield stability.

A balanced all-round hybrid with desirable leaf disease resistance.

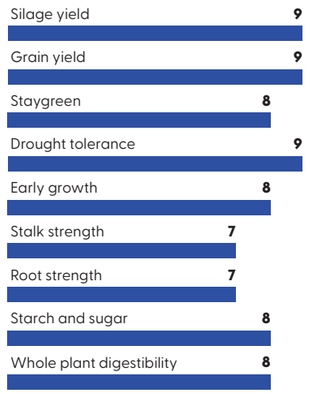
- Tall plant with sound standability, staygreen and drought tolerance.
- Superior resistance to Northern Leaf Blight and Rust for notable mid-to-late-season plant appeal.
- Produces silage with superior digestibility and energy content.
- Supplies yield stability in moderate to high yield environments.

Plant with **P0450**, **P0710**, **P0900** or **P0937** depending on maturity requirements.

NEW

PIONEER® P0710

CRM 107



Exceptional foliar health and yield stability – wet or dry!

Optimum® AQUAmax® drought qualities provide tolerance to water and heat stress during flowering and grain fill stages.

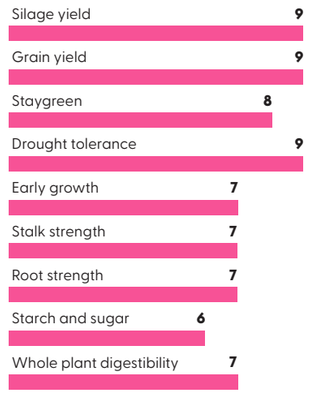
- Starts well with strong stress emergence and early growth.
- Superior staygreen and Northern Leaf Blight resistance deliver season-long plant health.
- Relatively short plant with low ear placement, strong roots, and stalks.
- Similar yield performance to **P0900** and **P0937** but has higher energy and digestibility ratings.

An excellent new option to plant alongside **P0640**, **P0900** and **P0937**.

Optimum® AQUAmax®

PIONEER® P0900

CRM 109



A proven, stable, all-round hybrid.

P0900 is an exceptionally balanced hybrid that delivers yield stability and a wide harvest window.

- Dependable standability, low ear placement, Optimum® AQUAmax® drought tolerance, great foliar health and staygreen.
- Strong resistance to Northern Leaf Blight and Rust.
- A management-responsive hybrid that will benefit from adjusting established plant population to match yield expectation.

Extensively planted between Kaitaia and Napier alongside **P0937**.

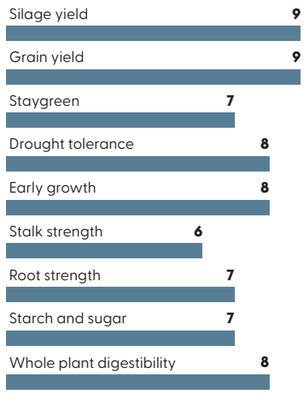
Optimum® AQUAmax®

Pioneer hybrid trait comparison ratings are only valid within a range of + or - 4 CRM. These descriptions mainly feature product strengths. When choosing hybrids, also review carefully the trait ratings found in the table on page 58. Contact your local Pioneer Area Manager or merchant for further advice.

See pages 56–57 for days to harvest and growing regions.

PIONEER® P0937

CRM 109



Solid hybrid with great standability and foliar health.

A modern plant type with erect leaves, sound foliar health, standability and exceptional staygreen.

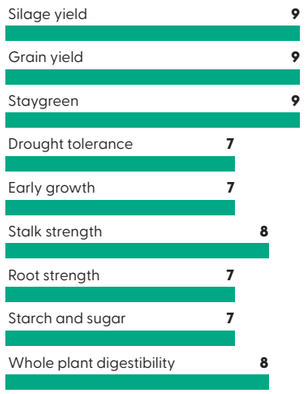
- Widely adapted, stable yet high-yielding hybrid.
- Emerges strongly when planted early into cold, wet soils.
- Sound Northern Leaf Blight and Rust resistances will be attractive to growers in high-risk situations.

P0937 performs best in moderate to high yielding situations in warmer northern growing regions. Companion with **P0900** and **P1185**.

NEW

PIONEER® P1185

CRM 111



Foliar health champion delivering top-quality silage.

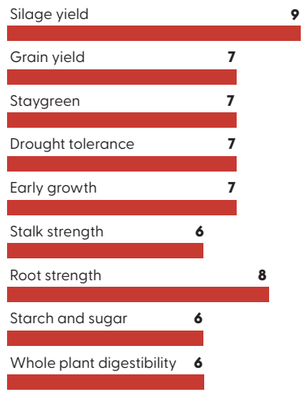
Similar in type and management requirements to **P0900** and **P0937**.

- Standout performer for Northern Leaf Blight and Rust resistances, standability, staygreen and season-long plant health.
- Delivers higher silage yields and a wider harvest window than **P0937**.
- Based on prior season observations, under certain growing conditions, **P1185** may produce ears showing some scattered kernel set.

Plant from Kaitaia to Napier as a companion to **P0900** and **P0937**, particularly where there has been significant Northern Leaf Blight pressure in recent seasons.

PIONEER® P1636

CRM 112



Enjoy the agronomics of this top-yielding hybrid.

P1636 is a tall, full-maturity hybrid that consistently delivers top-end yields in this key late-maturity segment.

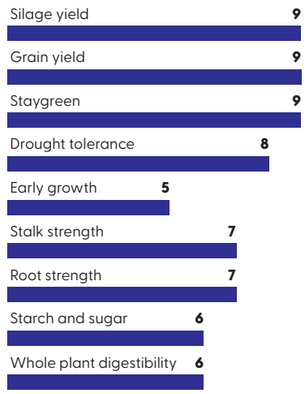
- Long cob to produce high-grain-content silage.
- Combines impressive agronomics, drought tolerance and staygreen that together provide a wide harvest window.
- Plant early to maximise yields.
- In high-risk Northern Leaf Blight situations, consider **P1185**, **P1477W** or **P17822**.

P1636 is well adapted to all warmer northern growing regions.

NEW

PIONEER® P17822

CRM 115



Full-season power delivers yield and foliar health.

A tall hybrid with excellent roots and stalks for dependable standability.

- Combines very high ratings for drought, Northern Leaf Blight and Rust that result in excellent staygreen, yield stability and harvest timing flexibility.
- Delivers much higher yields than **P1837**, which it replaces.

Plant early in warmer medium to high potential situations from Kaitaia to Napier at established populations between 85,000 and 95,000 plants per hectare.

Also available in 2026:

PIONEER® P9400

CRM 94

PIONEER® P0891

CRM 107

PIONEER® P1477W

CRM 114

Pioneer hybrid trait comparison ratings are only valid within a range of + or - 4 CRM. These descriptions mainly feature product strengths. When choosing hybrids, also review carefully the trait ratings found in the table on page 58. Contact your local Pioneer Area Manager or merchant for further advice.

See pages 56–57 for days to harvest and growing regions.

Giving your maize *the best possible start*

In maize silage production, the foundations for yield and feed quality are set early. Establishment influences crop uniformity and ultimately determines how well a hybrid expresses its genetic potential. With spring conditions becoming increasingly unpredictable, securing a strong, consistent start for your crop has never been more important.

From this season, all Pioneer® brand maize seed in New Zealand will be treated with Lumidapt™, making early-season support a built-in feature of Pioneer maize seed.

Lumidapt™

GROWTH ENHANCER SEED TREATMENT

What is Lumidapt™?

Lumidapt™ is a biological seed treatment designed to improve early vigour through enhanced nutrient availability. Applied directly to the seed, it is formulated around a humic and fulvic acid backbone, with bonded nutrients and a broad range of micronutrients.

Lumidapt™ is accurately applied to every seed during the Pioneer maize treatment process. The formulation has been extensively tested across all available Pioneer genetics and is fully compatible with all existing Pioneer maize seed treatment options, without compromising seed flow, appearance or dust-off characteristics.

The role of biological seed treatments

Biological seed treatments differ from traditional crop protection products. Rather than targeting pests or diseases, they work within the soil–plant system to enhance nutrient availability, support early root and shoot development, and help young plants cope with abiotic stresses such as cool soils or fluctuating moisture.

The objective is simple: to create a more vigorous seedling that is better positioned to withstand environmental challenges.

Supporting early plant development

During germination and emergence, maize seedlings rely heavily on stored reserves and immediately accessible nutrients in the root zone. Lumidapt™ supports this critical phase by enhancing nutrient uptake and photosynthetic activity, and can lead to increased early biomass.

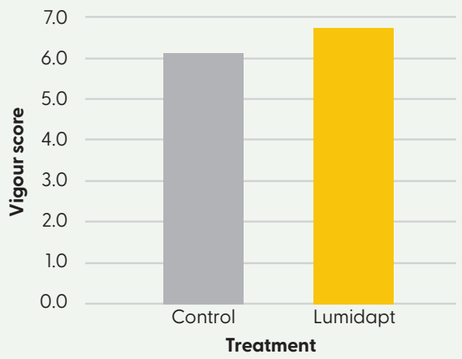
Stronger early root development improves access to soil moisture and nutrients, while improved leaf growth increases light interception. Together, these factors can drive early vigour – a key contributor to uniform crop establishment.

Proven performance in New Zealand and overseas

Lumidapt™ is already used across several million hectares of arable crops throughout the world, making it one of the most widely adopted biological seed treatments globally. That offshore experience has been supported by New Zealand research conducted across a range of Pioneer maize hybrids and environments over the past three seasons.

NZ trials have closely mirrored international results, showing consistent improvements in early vigour compared with the untreated control.

Figure 1: New Zealand early vigour trial results



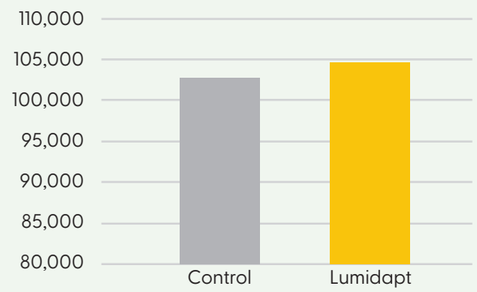
Results of six replicated trials show Lumidapt™ treated P9978 had a statistically significant ($P < 0.05$) increase in early vigour when compared to a control with standard seed treatment.

Supporting plant population and stand consistency

For maize silage growers, establishment is about more than visual early growth – it is also about protecting the final plant population. Across multiple New Zealand maize trials, Lumidapt™ treated seed achieved significantly higher established plant populations than the untreated control. The advantage to Lumidapt™ was greatest when emergence conditions were more challenging.

This improvement in establishment consistency reduces within-paddock variability and supports more uniform crops, which is critical for maximising silage yield and quality.

Figure 2: Lower North Island plant population trials



Results of four replicated Lower North Island trials show Lumidapt™ treated P9400 had a statistically significant ($P < 0.05$) increase in established plant population when compared to a control with standard seed treatment.

What this means for maize silage systems

Because Lumidapt™ is included on all Pioneer maize seed, growers benefit from enhanced early vigour and establishment without any change to planting practices or management decisions. It is not only about chasing yield, but also about reducing risk and improving repeatability.

Although not statistically significant, Lumidapt™ treated seed outyielded the untreated control in eight of the 12 New Zealand trials. As with all agronomic inputs, yield response will vary depending on seasonal conditions, soil type and crop management.

What is a biological seed treatment?

A biological seed treatment contains **living microorganisms** (such as bacteria, fungi, or nematodes) or **naturally derived compounds** (such as plant extracts, amino acids, or enzymes) which are applied to the seed surface before planting. These treatments are designed to improve germination, enhance nutrient uptake, and protect the seedling against early-season stresses.

Kyle Gardyne
Pioneer® brand products Seed Applied Technologies Manager

According to Kyle

Kyle Gardyne, who holds a Bachelor of Science majoring in Agricultural Science from Massey University, worked in extension agronomist and sales roles within the seed industry before joining the Pioneer team in a dual Marketing and Seed Applied Technologies management role.

He has spent the past five years evaluating a number of biological seed treatments looking for a product that would deliver measurable benefits to New Zealand maize growers.

“Many biologicals make claims, but our rigorous trialling programme was unable to substantiate them” says Kyle. “We literally kept testing until we found a product that worked”.

“Lumidapt™ represents an exciting step forward for Pioneer maize. By working with the plant from day one, trials show it can support stronger root systems, improved early vigour and more resilient establishment, particularly in tougher conditions. That early start sets the platform for everything that follows. This is about adding another tool to the maize grower’s toolbox, one that complements Pioneer’s genetics and best practice maize agronomy”.

Pioneer Seed Treatments

Selected for our genetics

Verified on our genetics

Proven in the field with our genetics

Protect your seed from the start

Our unique seed treatments protect your investment in Pioneer® brand maize seed. 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.

Seed treatment options

No two paddocks are the same, that's why we offer a comprehensive range of seed treatment options. Talk to your local Pioneer representative, merchant or contractor to determine the best Pioneer seed treatment option for your growing environment.

	Biological	Fungicide	Insecticide				Bird repellent
	Biostimulant	Seed & soil borne diseases	Black beetle	Argentine stem weevil	Greasy cutworm	Nematodes[1]	
L-200	✓	✓					
L-200+	✓	✓					✓
L-300	✓	✓	✓	✓			
L-300+	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
L-400	✓	✓	✓	* ✓	✓	✓	
L-400+	✓	✓	✓	* ✓	✓	✓	✓

* Research data shows the insecticide in L-400 and L-400+ is more effective at reducing plant loss due to Argentine stem weevil damage than the insecticide in L-300 and L-300+

[1] L-400 and L-400+ contains Bacillus spp which suppresses nematode damage in maize

Silage safety

Silage, made from pasture and a range of crops, is an essential component of many New Zealand dairy farm systems, but working around silage-making equipment and structures can be risky. Machinery incidents, falls, silage face collapses, and exposure to silo gas have caused serious injuries and deaths across the agricultural sector globally. The good news is that most silage related accidents are preventable with sound planning, consistent protocols, and a strong on farm safety culture.

This article outlines some of the key risks and the strategies every business should adopt to protect workers and ensure safe, efficient silage operations.

PRIOR TO HARVEST

Communicate with your contractor
Where necessary, widen gateways and ensure everyone in the team is aware of the location of overhead power lines.

Use well-designed stacks or bunkers
Good facilities improve efficiency and reduce risk:

- The size of bunkers or the stacking area should always match the expected silage volume.
- Provide room for manoeuvring machinery.
- Ensure the area around the stack or bunker is solid and level.
- Add weights to stacking tractors to improve compaction as well as stability.
- Install markers on above-ground walls.
- If it looks like the harvest will continue after dark, make sure the entire area is well lit.

Have a pre-harvest meeting
Include everyone involved in the harvest process, establish roles, identify hazards and ensure everyone is aware of the safety protocols.

Establish "no-go" zones
Silage harvest is a high-risk time. Always contact the chopper driver before entering the paddock. The bunker or stack is a dangerous area due to the high traffic volume. No spectators or non-essential personnel should be allowed into this area and anyone exiting a vehicle should wear hi-vis clothing.

Manage fatigue
Silage harvest can be stressful and often there is pressure to get the job done. Use rotating shifts, ensure regular breaks and provide adequate food and hydration. Encourage workers to speak up early if they feel unsafe or overtired.

BUILDING STACKS OR FILLING BUNKERS

Steep bunker sides, uneven stack surfaces, and high centres of gravity increase the risk of rollovers.

Even surfaces
Ensure trucks are on an even surface before the load is tipped.

Roll over protective structures (ROPS) and seatbelts
ROPS are only effective if the operator is wearing a seatbelt and cannot be thrown from the vehicle.

Keep the bucket low
If you are using a front-end loader to keep the bucket low to help improve stability.

Avoid overfilling bunkers
Do not mound the material above the wall on above-ground bunkers.

Slope
Maintain a maximum slope of 1:3 on the sides and ends of stacks (1 metre of vertical rise for every 3 metres of horizontal distance). This will improve compaction and reduce the risk of rollovers.

Unloading height
Do not fill a bunker or build a stack higher than the unloading equipment can safely reach.

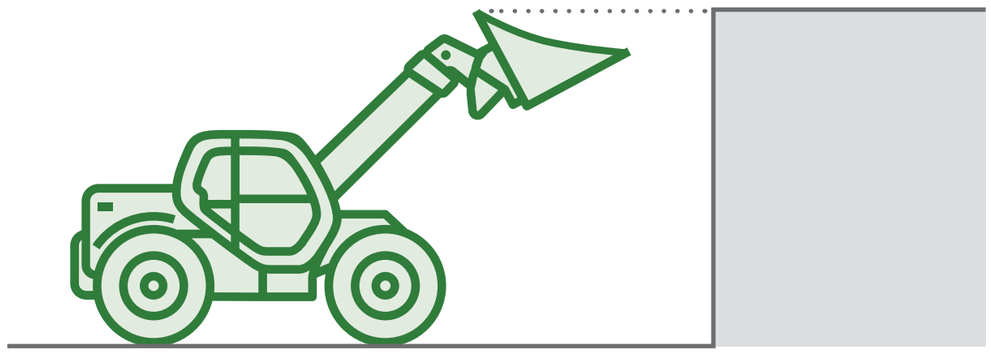


Figure 1: Do not fill higher than unloading equipment can safely reach.

COMPACTING

Good compaction management will improve silage making efficiency and help maintain silage quality.

Driving protocol
Where there are multiple vehicles on the stack, establish a driving protocol to prevent collisions.

Thin layers
Pack silage in thin (10–15 cm) layers to improve density and stability.

Progressive wedge
A progressive wedge makes packing safer and helps to improve silage quality.

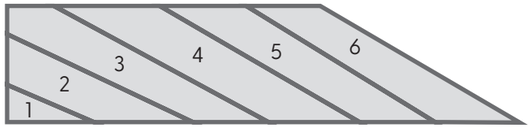


Figure 2: Progressive wedge

COVERING AND SEALING

Care should be taken to avoid the risk of falls or exposure to dangerous silo gas.

Move carefully
Wear non-slip footwear. Use long handled tools to position plastic and weights.

Edge safety
Falls can occur while covering stacks or bunkers. Wet plastic, loose gravel bags, and wind can all increase risk. Avoid standing or walking along the edge whenever possible. A harness system is recommended when working near the edge of tall bunkers or stacks.

Tyres
Use proper lifting techniques when throwing tyres. Place tyres carefully and close together. Loose tyres rolling down the plastic are a common cause of falls. Consider using gravel bags which are easier to handle.

Monitor silo gas
Nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) is a toxic gas which is produced shortly after ensiling. Silo gas is more common in crops like maize, sorghum or annual grasses that have accumulated nitrates from exposure to stress situations including drought, frost, cloudy weather and fertility imbalances.

Stay away from silage if you observe
- Bright orange or yellow fumes and a bleach like smell (though gas can be odourless) coming from the silage.
- Dead vegetation (like the area has been sprayed with glyphosate) around the stack.

If your forage crop is high risk
- Cover and seal the stack or bunker immediately after harvest.
- Post appropriate warning signs and keep people and animals away from the stack, bunker or nearby buildings or low-lying areas.
- Where possible, do not remove the plastic cover during the first three weeks after covering or sealing a bunker.
- Do not puncture bubbles in plastic.
- Wear gloves, protective clothing and self-contained-breathing-apparatus (SCBA) when opening the stack or bunker.
- Test suspect silage for nitrates before feeding.

FEEDING OUT

Feedout is where many silage accidents occur however, most can be avoided by applying good silage management practices and staying out of high-risk areas.

Be careful when removing the cover
When on top of the stack or bunker, keep away from the edge. A harness system is recommended for tall bunkers or stacks.

Keep away from the face
A silage face may appear solid, but internal weaknesses can cause sudden and catastrophic collapses. Every cubic metre of silage weighs close to a tonne. People should **NEVER** stand close to the face. **A rule of thumb is to remain at least three times the height of the face away from the stack or bunker.**

Figure 3: *Safe distance guide*

Never undermine the face
Do not dig the bucket into the bottom of the silage face, build a bunker which is too tall for unloading equipment or try to feedout without peeling back the cover. All these errors can create an overhang which can collapse unexpectedly. Instead use a face shaver or a bucket to remove a thin layer of silage from the face.

Watch for cracks and wet layers
Keep an eye out for cracks in the silage face or distinct layers. Very wet pasture silage can become prone to slippage, especially if the chop length is too short and/or it is stacked in layers with drier material.

Always use machinery to move silage
Do not manually remove spoiled silage from the top of bunkers or stacks. If there is loose material on the ground, use the loader bucket to clear it. Never drive unloading machinery parallel to the face especially if the bunker or stack is overloaded.

Take care when sampling silage
Where possible take silage samples from the tractor bucket once it has been moved away from the silage face. Alternatively closed stacks can be cored from the centre of the top (away from the edges), or samples can be collected from the sides of open stacks provided the height is low.

Don't work alone
Nobody should work alone around silage faces. The ideal is to have another person positioned a safe distance from the stack. At the very least always ensure someone knows where you are.

Forage and Nutrition Specialist Raewyn Densley has spent the last 35 years working with silage users across Australasia.

"Most farmers are either unaware of the risks associated with stacking and feeding out silage, or they think it isn't going to happen to them" says Raewyn. "Unfortunately, it can, and while silage accidents are not common, each year lives are changed or lost due to silage-related injuries".

"Silage safety is not just a set of rules – it is a mindset. Regular discussions about the risks, debriefs after near misses and a culture of speaking up all help reduce the risks of injuries".

The late Dr Keith Bolsen was a global pioneer in silage safety and many of his articles and published papers were used in the preparation of this article.

For more information see:

The Kansas State University website https://www.asi.k-state.edu/extension/silage.html

Safety in silage operations https://www.asi.k-state.edu/doc/beef/safetyinsilage.pdf

Silage review: Safety considerations during silage making and feeding https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0022030218303308

Silage stack collapse survivor

A quick trip to the bunker to get silage for a down cow has had life-changing consequences for Australian farmer Rebecca Ford.

Rebecca and her husband Dean milk 460 cows on 172 ha on the outskirts of Darnum in Victoria, Australia. When one of the couple's "friendly cows" went down on the feedpad and was moved to the calf sheds for recovery, Rebecca thought it would be nice to get her a treat of maize silage.

Rebecca was 4-5 metres away from the bunker face scooping some spilled maize silage off the ground into two 20 litre buckets when the wind of an incoming storm caused the silage cover to flap. Looking up, she noticed a crack near the top of the 5 m tall bunker face.

"I didn't think too much about it and bent back down to fill the buckets" says Rebecca. "Next thing I felt the silage hitting the back of my head and middle of my shoulders and it just kept on coming".

Before she knew it, Rebecca had been completely buried. Initially she tried to push up using her arms, but after she realised it was too deep, she used her left hand to dig and clear a breathing space around her mouth.

"Nobody knew I was at the silage stack, and I realised I was in really big trouble" says Rebecca. "It was at that point I remembered I might have my mobile phone in my jacket pocket".

Rebecca managed to get the phone, and she used it to call her cousin who was at the top of her frequently used numbers list. She told her that she needed help and that she was buried in the maize silage. The family rushed to the bunker and managed to clear the silage off Rebecca's head while they waited for emergency services to arrive.

> "Nobody knew I was at the silage stack, and I realised I was in really big trouble"

Country Fire Authority (CFA) crews from Warragul and Nilma North brigades were among the first on scene, arriving shortly after 4.30 pm alongside State Emergency Services, Fire Rescue Victoria, Victoria Police and Ambulance Victoria. It took crews just over an hour to successfully extricate Rebecca, who remained conscious throughout the ordeal. She was carried by stretcher to a waiting ambulance, which took her to the road. There she was transferred to a helicopter and transported to the Royal Alfred Hospital in Melbourne.

Rebecca was in bad shape, and her family was told there was a chance she wouldn't make it. Her injuries included a decompressed lung, 24 ½ (out of 26) ribs broken off, broken or cracked and five fractured lumbar vertebrae. She had broken the top of her right hip; her right femur was sticking out of her body, and her left femur was also broken. Rebecca had broken both tibias, fibulas, knees and ankles.

Actual photo of the accident scene

Upon arrival, Rebecca went into surgery for 10 hours and this was followed by a second 4-hour operation seven days later to insert a shield to stabilise her ribcage.

Surgeons told the family that Rebecca would be in hospital for at least six months, but they had underestimated the courage and tenacity of a farm girl from Darnum. After 100 days she made it home.

Rebecca's rehabilitation is ongoing and she has more surgery ahead. While it's fair to say that life will never be the same as it was before the accident, Rebecca prefers to look at the positives. She is keen to share her story in the hope it may prevent others from having to go through a similar ordeal.

"I was lucky the accident didn't take me out" says Rebecca. "I hate to think what would have happened if I was closer to the silage face or if I didn't have my mobile phone with me".

Rebecca's injuries:

- Decompressed lung
- 24.5 broken or cracked ribs
- 5 fractured lumbar vertebrae
- Top of her right hip broken off
- Right femur sticking out of her body
- Both tibias, fibulas, knees and ankles broken

Maize silage supports *winter milk*

For Neville and Ainsley Porteous, building a profitable and resilient dairy system has been about matching cow numbers to seasonal pasture growth as well as what their soils can realistically carry through winter and using supplements strategically to ensure cows are well fed year-round.

The Porteous family's 135-ha effective farm is situated at Te Ārai, around 10 minutes east of Wellsford. At peak, they milk around 370 predominantly Friesian or Friesian-cross cows. The herd is structured around split calving, with approximately 310 cows calved in the autumn and around 70 in the spring, a system designed to reduce pressure through the wettest months.

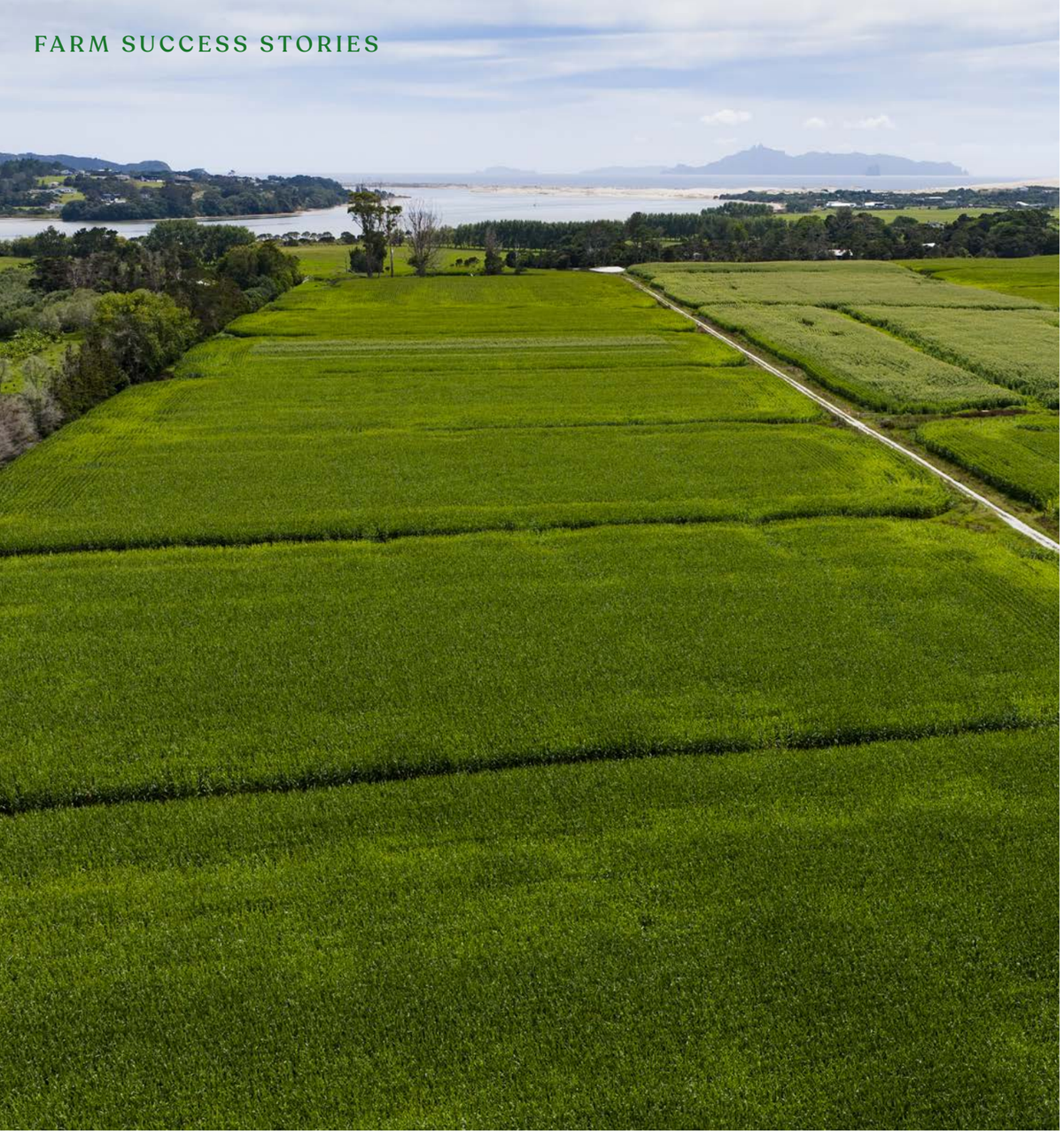
"We're really focused on getting those cows through the winter by utilising a feedpad to minimise pasture damage and set up for when the pasture growth rates increase at the end of September" says Neville.

Neville has tested different calving strategies over time. While the farm previously ran a more evenly split system and later moved to total autumn calving, several very wet winters, combined with Cyclone Gabrielle, highlighted the limits of that approach on heavier soils.

"We went to all autumn calving for a couple of years" Neville explains. "But after a couple of really wet winters, it just put too much pressure on the system".

The current split-calving model has proven a better fit, allowing winter cow numbers to be held at a level the farm can comfortably support while retaining production flexibility.

ABOVE Neville Porteous



> “I like seeing cows happy and well fed in the paddock. When they’re producing well, it makes you feel like you’re looking after them properly”

work, including those which have rushes or other weeds and may require some drainage”.

Crops are established using traditional cultivation, including ripping and power harrowing. In recent seasons, the maize planting date has been shifted to the first week of November to improve establishment success, while also allowing an extra grass silage cut beforehand.

Harvest typically occurs in mid-March, enabling pasture to be re-established ahead of winter.

Hybrid selection starts by identifying the right maturity. Neville avoids very long-maturing hybrids that delay regrassing on his heavier soils, but also steers away from very short-season hybrids that have a lower yield potential.

“We’re looking for something middle of the road, with reasonable grain content”.

In recent seasons, Neville has planted Pioneer® brand P0900 following earlier success with other AQUAmax® hybrids.

Once feed-out begins, Neville places great emphasis on maintaining maize silage quality and reducing losses.

“We’re very particular with our stack management. We only feed what we break off the face. We don’t leave loose maize sitting there warming up”.

The farm runs Allflex activity collars across the herd, supporting a full artificial insemination breeding programme with no bulls on the property. Six weeks of mating are used for the autumn herd, with a short three-week mating period for spring calvers.

“We don’t rear any replacements from the spring herd so some cows shift from the autumn herd to the spring herd to keep up the numbers” says Neville. “Anything that is empty from the spring herd leaves the farm”.

“We’ve gone away from bulls completely; it just makes the system simpler”.

The farm’s replacement policy is equally straightforward. Around 80 Friesian replacements are reared each year from the autumn herd, with all Friesian heifer calves retained. Lower-performing cows are mated to beef breeds, including Charolais and Hereford, and surplus calves are sold through the local saleyards.

A simple yet disciplined management system that plays to the farm's strengths helps drive on-farm efficiency. A Fonterra analysis shows that around 55 per cent of feed eaten on the farm is converted into milk, compared with a benchmark Northland System 4 group average of approximately 48 per cent. Production per kilogram of liveweight sits at around 87 per cent. Homegrown feed production averages around 11.2 tDM/ha, compared with approximately 8.2 tDM/ha for the 100 closest farms.

Farm walk

- Milk 370 Friesian / Friesian-cross cows on 135 ha (effective)
- Split-calving system, wintering 320 cows
- Grows 18 ha maize silage, producing 360–380 tDM/year
- Hybrid grown: P0900

Dairy farming has been a lifelong career for Neville, and he continues to enjoy the variety it offers.

“I like the fact that every day is different and you are not doing the same repetitive job. You might be plumbing or fixing machinery, managing pastures, working with livestock or chopping down trees”.

At its core, Neville’s motivation remains grounded in his herd.

“I like seeing cows happy and well fed in the paddock. When they’re producing well, it makes you feel like you’re looking after them properly”.

LEFT Pioneer Farm Systems Manager Wade Bell, Neville Porteous and Pioneer Area Manager Mark Bradley.

PIONEER®
HUNDRED YEARS

MANY CROPS. 100 YEARS. ONE LONG LOOK.

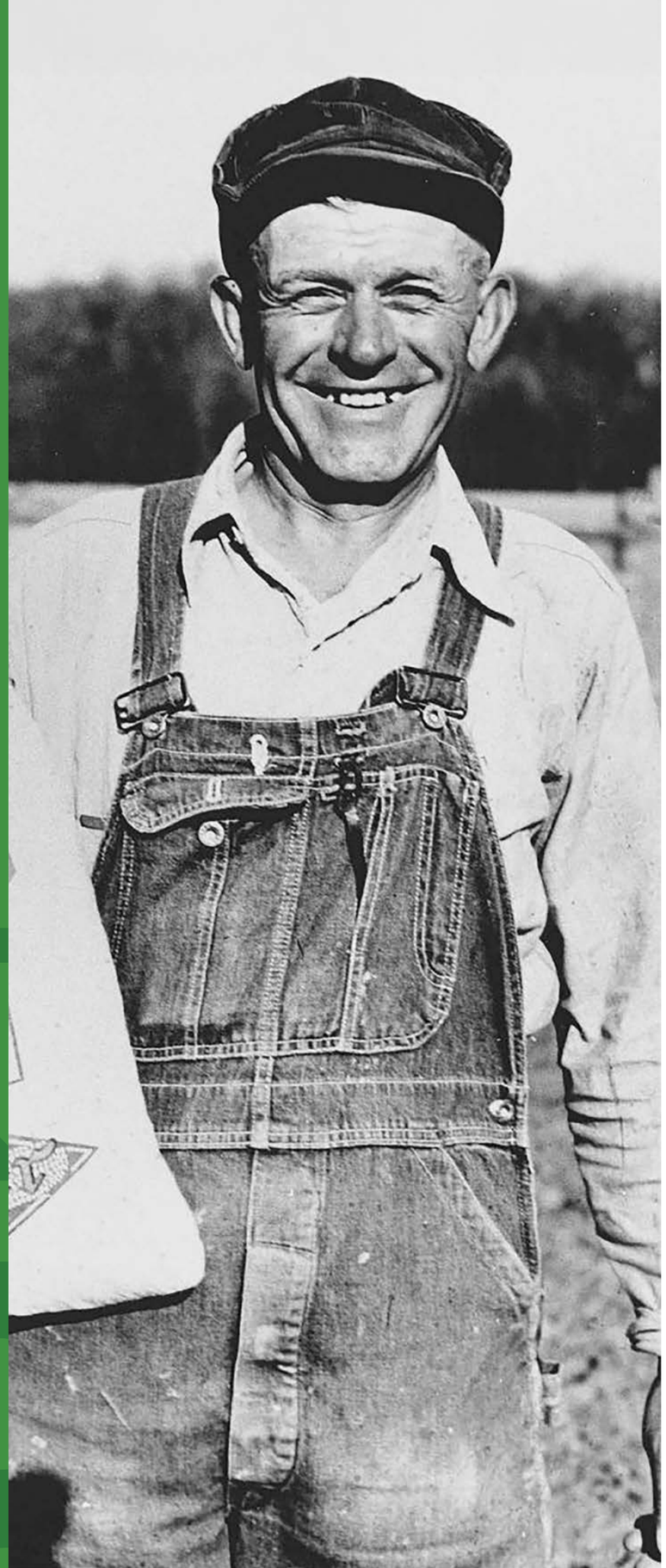
PIONEER LONG LOOK

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.



Last year marked the 50th anniversary of the signing of the New Zealand seed production and distribution agreement between Pioneer Hi-Bred and Philip Yates. This year marks another significant milestone, with the centennial anniversary of the Pioneer brand and its global business.

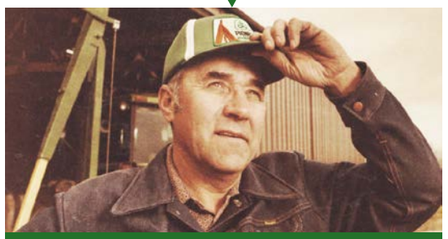
1926 - 1945

THE HYBRID REVOLUTION

Founded by Henry Wallace in 1926, Pioneer began as a bold experiment in corn breeding which quickly grew into a driving force for agricultural progress. Wallace's vision and scientific curiosity laid the foundation for a company that would revolutionise crop genetics, empower farmers, and set enduring standards for quality and agronomic support.

THE GOLDEN AGE OF CROP SCIENCE

As the space race took off, so too did farm yields – soaring to new heights thanks to innovations like on-farm mechanisation and nitrogen fertiliser. Pioneer pushed progress even further, building research centres focused on improving yields and stress tolerance in hybrid corn and creating its first agronomy team. The company went on to expand its product offerings to include grain and forage sorghum, canola, silage inoculants and beyond.



1946 - 1985

1975

PIONEER® BRAND MAIZE IN NEW ZEALAND

Over the past 50 years the business in New Zealand has invested in seed production facilities in Gisborne, a substantial maize research and hybrid trial programme, and a strengthened field team across the country's main maize growing regions, continuing Pioneer's long standing support of local growers through innovation and dependable in field advice.

THE RISE IN TECHNOLOGY

While the first 60 years saw yield growth through traditional breeding methods, the last four decades have delivered advancements in the science of genomics. Pioneer scientists now use DNA fingerprinting to help unlock the potential of seeds, while new technologies like AI and automation are being used to increase the rate of genetic gain.

1986 - today

Pioneer's 100-year milestone reflects more than longevity – it represents a legacy built on science, integrity and partnership. Sincere thanks to the generations of farmers and those others who support them, who have helped shape the company's growth and development through the years. Thank you for trusting Pioneer products in your fields.

Boost your silage performance with *crop-specific inoculants*

Make the most of every tonne of silage with Pioneer® brand inoculants. Our crop specific products are designed to improve fermentation, lift dry matter recovery and enhance aerobic stability – helping you turn quality forage into more milk in the vat or meat on the hook.

Patented bacterial strains

Every Pioneer inoculant contains patented strains selected from Pioneer's world leading collection of naturally occurring silage bacteria. These strains are chosen because they perform where it counts – in the bunker or bale.

Crop specific inoculants

Not all bacteria work the same in every crop. Research shows some strains perform exceptionally well in one forage and poorly in another. That's why Pioneer inoculants use carefully selected individual strains or combinations, matched specifically to the crop being ensiled.

Rapid React® aerobic stability technology

Pioneer inoculants with Rapid React® technology help create stable feed in just seven days. This means silage can be fed sooner, while still capturing the benefits of a cooler bunker face, reduced dry matter losses and less heating at feed out.

Local and overseas product research

Pioneer inoculants are tested and proven under a wide range of ensiling conditions. This research backs product performance, and trial data is available on request.

Quality assured production

All Pioneer inoculants are produced under strict ISO 9001:2000 quality standards. Guaranteed bacteria levels are clearly stated on every label, so you know exactly what you're putting on your crop.

Comprehensive in-field support

Every bottle is backed by an experienced local Pioneer field team, focused on helping you get the best return from your silage investment.

PIONEER® BRAND
INOCULANTS

Maize inoculants

Pioneer® brand

11C33RR

Maize silage specific inoculant with next-generation L. buchneri designed to reduce heating and improve silage quality. Rapid React aerobic stability technology provides less heating and stable feed in 7 days[1].

Pioneer® brand

1174

Improves dry matter recovery and silage quality of all forage crops.

Pasture and other crop inoculants

NEW

Pioneer® brand

11G22RR

Pasture specific inoculant that delivers an improved fermentation and a fermentation acid profile that minimises heating and aerobic dry matter losses to lock in the nutrients[1].

Pioneer® brand

1127

Produces top quality pasture silage with enhanced fermentation for high producing dairy cows and specialised beef production.

Pioneer® brand

11H50

Lucerne specific silage inoculant selected to best use plant available sugars, maximising fermentation quality, silage digestibility and animal performance.

Pioneer® brand

1174

Improves dry matter recovery and silage quality of all forage crops.

[1] Improved aerobic stability and reduced heating are relative to untreated silage. Actual results may vary. The effect of any silage inoculant is dependent upon management at harvest, storage and feedout. Factors such as moisture, maturity, chop length and compaction will impact inoculant efficacy.

Pioneer® brand Summer feed

If you are in a warm part of the country, Pioneer® brand SSS and Megafeed are drought-tolerant summer feed options. Planted in November or December, they deliver fast feed and can be grazed or harvested for silage or hay.

With the continual evaluation of new hybrids, this year sees the full commercial release of Megafeed; a sorghum x sudan hybrid which replaces Bettagraze.

Backed by Australian breeding and selection for demanding growing conditions, Megafeed delivers excellent early vigour and maintains high-quality feed late into the season.

As farms adapt to hotter summers and more variable pasture performance, forage sorghum stands out as a practical tool for maintaining feed supply while strengthening whole farm resilience.

High heat tolerance and water use efficiency

Forage sorghum and sudan grass are warm season C4 grasses. They maintain photosynthetic efficiency at higher temperatures and have better water use efficiency than cool season pastures.

Late planting window with minimal opportunity cost

Sorghum can be planted later than many other summer crops, enabling farmers to take a cut of pasture silage before crop establishment.

Lower pest pressure and minimal disease challenge

Compared with brassica or chicory crops, forage sorghum typically has fewer pest issues and a lower risk of crop failure.

Excellent fit for pasture renovation programmes

Sorghum works well as a break crop, delivering additional summer feed while still enabling timely autumn re-grassing.

PIONEER® BRAND SSS

Early seedling vigour	7
Fast feed	9
Silage making	9
Hay making	9
Sheep grazing	9
Beef grazing	9
Dairy grazing	9

Max 9 |

First choice for grazing.

Super Sweet Sudan (SSS) hybrid is quick to graze and sustains multiple grazings. Fine leaves make SSS suitable for grazing with sheep or cattle or making high quality baled silage or hay.

Key features:

- Sudan x sudan grass
- Quick regrowth allows multiple cuts or grazings
- Prolific tillering habit and superfine stems
- Sweet and leafy for enhanced palatability

Bag size: 15 kg
Recommended planting rate: 15-25 kg/ha
Planting depth: 2.5-3.5 cm

NEW

PIONEER® BRAND MEGAFEED

Early seedling vigour	9
Fast feed	8
Silage making	9
Hay making	9
Sheep grazing	7
Beef grazing	9
Dairy grazing	9

Max 9 |

Next level performer.

Combining strong early seedling vigour and late flowering. Megafeed keeps producing high quality feed until late in the season.

Key features:

- Sorghum x sudan grass
- Larger seed size for better establishment in dry conditions
- Well suited to grazing, baling or silage
- High leaf-to-stem ratio for increased palatability and feed quality

Bag size: 20 kg
Recommended planting rate: 20-40 kg/ha
Planting depth: 3-5 cm

Key
1 = Poor, **9** = Excellent. Ratings based on Pioneer research comparisons with other Pioneer® brand sorghum/sudan hybrids.

Scan for more information regarding Pioneer summer forage hybrids:

Cow condition *built with maize*

LYLE AND NICOLE WILLIAMS, ASHBURTON, CANTERBURY

For Lyle and Nicole Williams, cow condition is not a "nice to have". It is the foundation that sets up the current season, as well as the one that follows. Feeding maize silage in the autumn is one of the most reliable ways the couple have found to put condition on cows while at the same time meeting pasture cover targets.

The Williams' irrigated dairy farm sits on the south side of Ashburton, toward Lake Hood. The couple peak milk around 650 predominantly Friesian cows on 203 effective hectares. In the 2024-25 season, the herd produced 327,000 kgMS equating to 503 kg MS per cow or 1,611 kgMS per hectare.

Lyle moved to the property with his parents in 1999 and, together with his wife Nicole, bought the farm about six years ago. They have three daughters. Emma is currently studying at Massey University, while Amy and Sophie are at boarding school.

Maize silage has been part of the Williams' farming system for much of the past two decades, although not continuously.

"We first started feeding maize silage 26 years ago when we came to the farm" says Lyle. "There were a few years where we went away from it, but in recent years, we have come back".

The years without maize silage coincided with Lyle and Nicole purchasing the farm. Previously, the system had relied on high levels of supplements, with less emphasis on getting pasture management right.

"We had tried a range of different high input systems, including a total mixed ration (TMR)" says Lyle. "We fed a lot of supplements, but we weren't making a lot of money, so we decided to sell the mixer wagon and go all grass to keep our costs low".

| **LEFT** Lyle Williams.

The major reset to all grass drove a renewed focus on pasture management, including weekly pasture walks, tighter residuals and more topping either in front of, or behind the herd.

"If the grass is good quality, we top in front of the cows but if it isn't good and you force the cows to eat it, you can affect production" says Lyle. "You're better to let the cows pick through the paddocks and then take the mower in to tidy up after them".

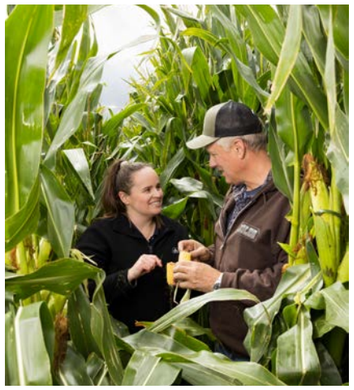
The pasture management changes improved grass yield and quality.

Production responded positively, but the system exposed a limitation in autumn.

"When we were just feeding pasture, it was a struggle to get weight on the cows at the end of the lactation" says Lyle. "We decided to grow maize because we knew maize silage is great for putting condition on cows".

Initially, the couple planted 5 ha of maize using effluent and just 100 kg/ha DAP as a starter fertiliser.

"It yielded more than 25 tDM/ha, so the next year we doubled the area, applied



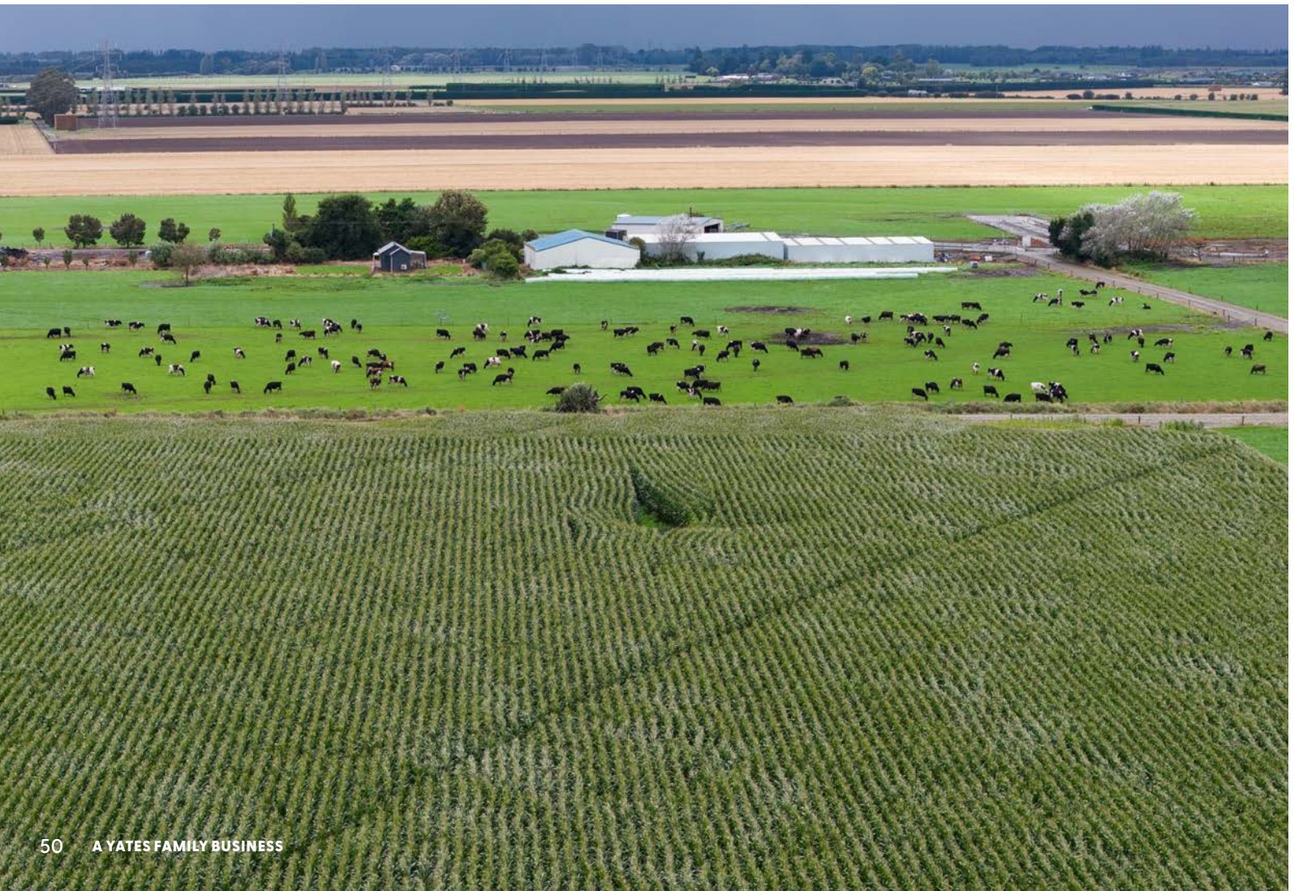
even more effluent" says Lyle. "Since then, we have achieved 30 tDM/ha each year".

The farm's current stocking rate of 3.2 cows per hectare means it is easy to grow 10 ha of maize silage on farm each year as part of the pasture renewal programme.

"Because we are using effluent and minimal purchased fertiliser, homegrown maize silage is a really low-cost feed for us".

The maize crop is planted in mid-

> "When we were just feeding pasture, it was a struggle to get weight on the cows at the end of the lactation. We decided to grow maize because we knew maize silage is great for putting condition on cows"



October and silage harvest takes place in late March. Paddocks are planted into either winter triticale or permanent pasture prior to the winter.

When it comes to hybrid choice, Lyle is looking for a hybrid that will come off early enough to get the winter crop established before it gets too cold.

"I've been planting Pioneer® brand P8333 every season because I know it yields well" says Lyle. "Pioneer have got a good reputation and an excellent backup service".

The maize silage is inoculated with Pioneer® brand 11C33 Rapid React silage inoculant and fed on the farms feedpad at up to 5 kgDM per cow per day shortly after harvest.

"It works well because the maize silage crop is harvested about the time I need to start slowing down my pasture rotation. We can feed maize silage while reducing grass intake and building pasture cover for spring".

Heavy soils shape many of the management decisions on farm, particularly through the wetter months. Protecting soils from pugging is a constant consideration. The feedpad helps and cows are wintered off farm, returning home about 10 days prior to calving.

"Last year we fed the springers maize silage for about a week prior to calving and that worked well for us" says Lyle.

Heifers are synchronised and artificially inseminated (AI) using easy calving crossbred bulls. In the main herd, non-cycling cows are proactively given CIDR's to ensure as many of the cows are mated in the 6-week AI period.

Better cow condition, coupled with a proactive reproduction management plan, has tightened the calving spread, and this has created an early spring feed deficit. Palm kernel expeller (PKE) fed in trailers in the paddock is used as a short-term gap filler until pasture growth lifts. Once grass supply is adequate, the system returns to all-grass until the next maize crop is harvested in the autumn.

"We don't have an in-shed feeding system, which is unusual for Canterbury" says Lyle. "I purposely didn't put one in, so we didn't have the temptation to use it".

Lyle is clear about the link between better cow condition, improved reproductive performance, production and profitability.

"Condition score is key to everything really" he says. "Having the right condition score at calving is the key to setting up not just this season, but the next one as well".

Looking ahead, Lyle is not chasing scale or major system change.

"What we're doing now works pretty well" says Lyle. "I think we've hit the right balance".

Farm walk

- Milk 650 Friesian cows on 203 ha (effective, irrigated)
- In 2024–25 season, produced 327,000 kgMS (503 kgMS/cow)
- Feed maize silage at up to 5 kgDM/cow/day
- Hybrid grown: P8333

ABOVE LEFT Lyle Williams and Pioneer Area Manager Rachel Bell.

PIONEER. BRAND · PRODUCTS

Maize silage

Growing and Harvest Cost Guide

The costs to grow, harvest and store maize silage are estimates only based on a sample of contractor rates, typical industry charges and product costs. All costs exclude GST and are indicative as at 31 March 2026. Given the volatility of farm input prices over the last few months, we encourage you to complete your own budget prior to the start of the growing season.

To use this cost guide, enter your own growing and harvesting costs in the "My Costs" column. For help and notes on this table refer to the assumptions on the next page.

2026-27 Average Estimated Cost
(exclusive of GST)

		Average estimated costs* ($/ha)		My Costs ($/ha)
Growing Costs		Typical fertility	High fertility	My farm ($/ha)
Pre-planting	Cost of leased land[1]	?	?	
	Soil test, other	10	10	
	Spraying out pasture including glyphosate	90	90	
	Lime including cartage and application[2]	190	0	
	Base fertiliser cost including application	430	0	
	Cultivation to planting specifications[3]	505	505	
Planting	Pioneer® brand P9978 maize seed @1.30# or 1.35## bags/ha	695	720	
	FAR maize seed levy ($8.00/80,000 kernels @ 1.30# or 1.35## bags/ha)	10	10	
	Pioneer L-400 seed treatment @ 1.30# or 1.35## bags/ha	175	180	
	Starter fertiliser cost including application[2]	350	0	
	Planting	225	225	
Post-planting	Pre emergence weed control (herbicide + application)	130	130	
	Post emergence weed control (herbicide + application)	120	120	
	Sidedress nitrogen cost including application[2]	370	0	
	Interest on maize expenditure (7 months @ 6.5%)	125	80	
	Total growing cost	**$3,425**	**$2,070**	
Harvest Costs				
Harvesting	Harvesting and stacking	1,525	1,525	
	Covering	250	250	
	Pioneer® brand 11C33RR maize specific inoculant[4]	270	270	
	Total harvest cost	**$2,045**	**$2,045**	
Total Growing & Harvest Costs		**$5,465**	**$4,115**	

*Rounded to the nearest five dollars # Typical fertility ## High fertility

Maize silage dry matter cost

Research has shown that maize can be grown in high fertility dairy farm paddocks, including those with a history of effluent application, without the need for additional fertiliser.

The table below gives indicative dry matter costings for both high and typical fertility maize growing environments. High fertility environments include dairy paddocks coming out of long-term pasture as well as paddocks with a history of effluent application. Typical fertility environments include run-out pasture paddocks and repeat cropping blocks. Very low fertility paddocks including repeat cropping blocks are likely to require additional fertiliser nutrients depending on a number of factors including maize crop yield and winter management system. Always soil test maize paddocks and apply nutrients according to the results.

Dry matter yield per hectare and cost per kg dry matter and per megajoule of metabolisable energy

		Maize silage dry matter costs			
		Typical fertility paddock		High fertility paddock	
	tDM/ha	Maize silage cost per kgDM in the stack (c/kgDM)	Maize silage cost per MJME (c/MJME)[5]	Maize silage cost per kgDM in the stack (c/kgDM)	Maize silage cost per MJME (c/MJME)[5]
Maize silage yield (tDM) in the stack	16	34.2	3.17	-	-
	18	30.4	2.81	22.9	2.12
	20	27.3	2.53	20.6	1.91
	22	24.9	2.30	18.7	1.73
	24	22.8	2.11	17.1	1.59
	26	21.0	1.95	15.8	1.47
	28	19.5	1.81	14.7	1.36
	30	-	-	13.7	1.27

Assumptions

1 Average land rentals have not been included because of a large regional variation. Provision to consider land rental has been included in the My Costs column.
2 Fertiliser and lime application rates vary according to soil pH and nutrient status and crop yield targets. Always soil test maize paddocks and seek professional advice to develop a nutrient application plan.
3 Cultivation costs will vary depending on soil types, land class and cropping history.
4 Costs for Pioneer® brand 11C33RR are based on inoculating a 22 tDM/ha crop.
5 Maize silage cost per MJME assumes a maize silage energy content of 10.8 MJME/kgDM.
6 Farmers growing maize silage for sale are usually responsible for costs up to and including the sidedress nitrogen application.
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 dry matter cost.
8 The costs and benefits of regrassing have not been included.

Notes

The information in this cost guide is general in nature and is not intended to be representative 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 cost guide or otherwise in connection with the use of this cost guide.

Trait characteristic notes (for table on page 58).

[1] **Silage comparative relative maturity (CRM):**
Pioneer silage CRM ratings provide a comparison between Pioneer hybrids indicating the relative rates at which hybrids reach harvestable whole plant dry matter. They do **not** represent actual calendar days from planting to harvest.

[2] **Yield for maturity:**
Pioneer hybrid trait comparisons should only be made within a range of + or – 4 CRM. Analysis of differences in harvest dry matter percentages between hybrids measured in our New Zealand silage research programme show products compared within + or – 4 CRM will reach ideal silage harvest maturity (defined as 30% - 38% DM) within about seven days of each other.

[3] **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 high yields.

[4] **Adaptability to low population:**
An indicator of a hybrid's ability to compensate (flex) cob size for stand loss from insect damage or poor emergence.

[5] **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.

[6] **Early growth:**
Ratings are taken when two leaf collars are visible.

[7] **Plant height:**
9 = Tall. 1 = Short.

[8] **Staygreen:**
A measure of late season plant health. A lower score means that the plant stover loses colour and dries down more rapidly at maturity.

[9] **Whole plant digestibility:**
Based on estimated 24 hour in vitro, whole plant digestibility percentage (DM basis) as predicted by Near Infrared Reflectance Spectroscopy (NIRS). A 1 rating point difference reflects 0.50 percent difference in digestibility.

[10] **Starch and sugar:**
Based on total starch and sugar content of hybrids harvested at silage maturity. Use this score as a relative comparison of the whole plant concentration of readily available energy (primarily grain) among individual hybrids. A 1 rating point difference reflects 0.75 percent difference in starch and sugar.

[11] **Northern Leaf Blight (NLB) and Eyespot:**
In conditions where NLB and Eyespot risks are high, growers should consider planting hybrids with resistance ratings of 6 or higher for these diseases.

[12] **Hybrid disease resistance ratings:**
8 to 9 = Highly resistant. 6 to 7 = Resistant.
4 to 5 = Moderately resistant. 1 to 3 = Susceptible.
- = Insufficient data. Common Rust, Eyespot and NLB ratings are based on overseas data together with New Zealand observations. Scores are based on visual assessment only and not on yield reduction data.

[13] **Cool environments:**
In cool environments, including high altitude sites greater than approximately 150 m / 500 ft above sea level, select your yield environment using the descriptions in note 16, then increase established plant populations to the next level i.e. for P9911 in a medium yield environment at high altitude, plant to achieve 115,000 established plants per hectare.

[14] **Established plant populations:**
These assume good seed establishment conditions. If you are planting very early or into a less than ideal seedbed 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.

[15] **Plant populations:**
The tabulated established populations are recommendations only. Work with your local Pioneer or merchant seed representative to determine the appropriate plant populations for your specific growing environment.

[16] **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

DM = dry matter
bags/ha = bags per hectare
kgDM = kilograms of dry matter
kgDM/ha = kilograms of dry matter per hectare
kgMS = kilograms of milk solids
kgMS/cow = kilograms of milksolids per cow
$/ha = dollars per hectare
MJME = megajoules of metabolisable energy
MJME/kgDM = megajoules of metabolisable energy per kilogram of dry matter
t/ha = tonnes per hectare
tDM = tonnes of dry matter
tDM/cow = tonnes of dry matter per cow
tDM/ha = tonnes of dry matter per hectare
c/kgDM = cents per kilogram of dry matter

Step by step guide

Choosing the right Pioneer hybrid for your farm

Complete the following four steps to determine the right hybrid for your paddock.

1 Calculate your days from planting to harvest

Use the chart below to calculate. Line up your planned planting date **column** with your target harvest date **row** to find the actual number of days.

▸ / 2026
planting date

▸ / 2027
harvest date

▸ days
Days from planting to harvest

GO TO STEP 2 >

Target **harvest** date 2027		Planned **planting** date 2026															
		September		October							November						
		21	26	1	6	11	16	21	26	31	5	10	15	20	25	30
February	5	137	132	127	122	117											
	10	142	137	132	127	122	117										
	15	147	142	137	132	127	122	117									
	20	152	147	142	137	132	127	122	117								
	25	157	152	147	142	137	132	127	122	117							
March	2	162	157	152	147	142	137	132	127	122	117						
	7	167	162	157	152	147	142	137	132	127	122	117					
	12	172	167	162	157	152	147	142	137	132	127	122	117				
	17	177	172	167	162	157	152	147	142	137	132	127	122	117			
	22		177	172	167	162	157	152	147	142	137	132	127	122	117		
	27			177	172	167	162	157	152	147	142	137	132	127	122	117	
April	1				177	172	167	162	157	152	147	142	137	132	127	122	
	6					177	172	167	162	157	152	147	142	137	132	127	
	11						177	172	167	162	157	152	147	142	137	132	

Notes

It is possible to plant in most areas from late September to mid-December. However, it is important to consider a number of factors that can impact silage yield and quality. These include hybrid pollinating timing relative to potential moisture stress, the planting date needs of the following winter crop or pasture, and the likelihood of autumn frost damage. Please contact your local Pioneer Area Manager or phone 0800 PIONEER (746 633) for advice on hybrid selections for earlier or later plantings.

2 Hybrid options for your region

Hybrid 1 | Hybrid 2 | Hybrid 3

Use the tables below to choose your region then identify hybrid options by matching your number of days from planting to harvest.

Region 1

Northland, Auckland North, Coastal BOP, Gisborne & Northern Hawke's Bay

Hybrids	Estimated days from planting to harvest	Hybrids	Estimated days from planting to harvest
P8086	110-125	NEW P0450	132-151
P8666	117-131	P0640	135-152
P8711	119-133	NEW P0710	135-150
NEW P9091	121-136	P0891	138-153
P92575	123-140	P0900	140-155
P9400	126-140	P0937	140-155
P9650	129-143	NEW P1185	143-157
P9911	130-148	P1636	144-158
P9978	130-146	P1477W	145-160
NEW P0283	131-150	NEW P17822	146-161

Region 2

North & Central Waikato

Hybrids	Estimated days from planting to harvest	Hybrids	Estimated days from planting to harvest
P8086	115-129	NEW P0450	136-155
P8666	121-134	P0640	140-157
P8711	123-136	NEW P0710	140-156
NEW P9091	125-141	P0891	142-158
P92575	128-145	P0900	143-162
P9400	131-145	P0937	143-162
P9650	133-147	NEW P1185	146-164
P9911	134-152	P1636	147-165
P9978	134-150	P1477W	147-165
NEW P0283	135-154	NEW P17822	148-166

Region 3

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

Hybrids	Estimated days from planting to harvest	Hybrids	Estimated days from planting to harvest
P7364	118-133	NEW P9091	133-150
P8086	122-136	P92575	136-154
P8240	124-138	P9400	140-154
P8333	125-139	P9650	144-156
P8666	129-143	P9911	145-161
P8711	131-145	P9978	145-160

Region 4

Rotorua, Reporoa, Taupo, Central Taranaki, Southern Hawke's Bay, Northern Wairarapa & Horowhenua

Hybrids	Estimated days from planting to harvest	Hybrids	Estimated days from planting to harvest
P7179	120-135	NEW P9091	142-159
P7364	127-141	P92575	145-163
P8086	130-145	P9400	149-163
P8240	132-147	P9650	150-165
P8333	133-148	P9911	153-171
P8666	137-152	P9978	153-169
P8711	139-154		

Notes

Hybrid maturity is based on heat unit accumulation through the season. Hybrids will therefore be quicker to harvest in warmer regions or warmer seasons. For example, a hybrid planted in coastal Nelson will be ready for harvesting much earlier than the same hybrid planted on the same day in mid Canterbury due to the faster accumulation of heat units in the Nelson environment. This has important implications for hybrid selection. The table below is a guide as to the estimated days from planting to harvest for Pioneer® brand hybrids in the regions for which they are recommended for silage. This information is generated from silage hybrid trials carried out in these regions over several seasons.

Region 5

Nelson & Marlborough

Hybrids	Estimated days from planting to harvest	Hybrids	Estimated days from planting to harvest
P8086	132-146	P92575	146-164
P8240	133-147	P9400	150-164
P8333	134-148	P9650	154-166
P8666	142-156	P9911	155-172
P8711	144-158	P9978	155-170
NEW P9091	145-161		

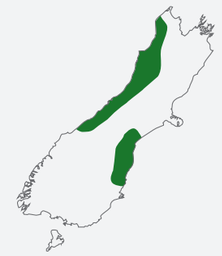
Region 6

North & Mid Canterbury

Hybrids	Estimated days from planting to harvest	Hybrids	Estimated days from planting to harvest
P7179	135-148	P8240	147-161
P7364	142-155	P8333	148-162
P7647	145-158	P8666	153-168
P8086	146-160	P8711	155-170

Region 7

South Canterbury & West Coast



Hybrids	Estimated days from planting to harvest	Hybrids	Estimated days from planting to harvest
P7179	139-153	P8240	152-167
P7364	146-160	P8333	153-168
P7647	148-162	P8666	157-172
P8086	152-166	P8711	159-174

Region 8

North Otago & Southland

Hybrids	Estimated days from planting to harvest
P7179	145-160
P7364	151-166
P7647	154-168
P8086	156-170

Pioneer® brand Maize Silage hybrid trait characteristics for 2026-2027

		Yield and maturity				Plant and agronomic traits							Silage quality traits		Hybrid disease ratings[12]			Recommended established plant populations (000s/ha)[13,14,15,16]		
	Hybrid	Silage CRM[1]	Grain yield for maturity[2]	Silage yield for maturity[2]	Adaptability to high population[3]	Adaptability to low population[4] (ear flex)	Drought tolerance	Stalk strength	Root strength	Stress emergence[5]	Early growth[6]	Plant height[7]	Staygreen[8]	Whole plant digestibility[9]	Starch and sugar[10]	Northern Leaf Blight[11]	Common Rust	Eyespot[11]	Challenging yield environments	Medium yield environments	High yield environments
	P7179	71	9	9	9	5	6	7	6	6	7	7	7	8	9	5	6	7	110	120	130
	P7364	73	9	9	9	6	8	7	7	6	7	6	8	9	9	5	4	5	110	120	130
	P7647	76	7	8	6	7	6	7	5	6	7	7	7	9	9	5	6	6	105	110	115
	P8086	80	9	9	7	7	7	6	7	6	6	6	7	7	8	6	7	7	105	115	125
	P8240	82	9	9	7	9	7	6	7	6	6	8	8	7	7	5	5	7	100	110	120
	P8333	83	9	9	5	9	7	6	5	6	8	7	7	7	7	5	6	7	100	110	115
	P8666	86	8	8	5	9	8	6	5	6	8	7	6	6	6	5	6	7	100	110	115
	P8711	87	9	8	8	9	8	7	7	6	7	8	8	9	9	7	7	6	100	110	115
NEW	**P9091**	90	9	9	7	7	8	6	6	7	7	6	8	9	9	6	6	6	95	105	115
	P92575	92	9	9	9	9	8	7	7	7	7	6	9	9	9	8	7	6	95	110	120
	P9400	94	7	7	6	9	7	7	7	4	7	8	6	8	8	7	6	6	100	108	115
	P9650	96	9	9	9	7	7	7	6	6	6	6	7	9	9	7	7	7	95	110	120
	P9911	99	7	9	7	9	9	5	5	7	6	8	9	6	6	5	5	6	100	108	115
	P9978	99	9	9	9	7	7	6	6	5	6	7	7	9	9	7	7	6	95	110	120
NEW	**P0283**	102	9	8	9	7	7	6	7	7	7	6	7	9	9	7	6	-	95	105	115
NEW	**P0450**	104	9	8	9	8	9	6	7	5	7	6	9	9	9	7	7	-	90	100	110
	P0640	106	9	9	7	9	7	6	6	6	8	8	7	7	7	6	7	6	95	105	110
NEW	**P0710**	107	9	9	9	7	9	7	7	7	8	6	8	8	8	7	7	6	90	100	115
	P0891	107	7	7	9	6	7	8	6	4	6	7	7	7	7	6	6	6	95	105	110
	P0900	109	9	9	9	9	9	7	7	7	7	7	8	7	6	7	7	6	85	95	115
	P0937	109	9	9	9	7	8	6	7	7	8	6	7	8	7	6	6	6	90	100	115
NEW	**P1185**	111	9	9	9	7	7	8	7	7	7	6	9	8	7	8	8	6	90	100	110
	P1636	112	7	9	8	7	7	6	8	6	7	8	7	6	6	5	6	-	95	105	110
	P1477W	114	9	9	9	6	7	8	8	5	6	7	8	7	7	7	6	7	90	105	110
NEW	**P17822**	115	9	9	6	9	8	7	7	5	5	8	9	6	6	8	7	-	NR	85	95

Ratings 9 = Outstanding 1 = Poor

CRM = Comparative Relative Maturity

- = Insufficient data available

NR = not recommended

NEW = New hybrid

For trait notes see page 54

3 Choose key traits that are important to you

Use trait table on page 58. Enter the hybrid trait ratings (right) for the hybrids you selected in Step 2.

	Hybrid 1	Hybrid 2	Hybrid 3
Silage yield rating[2]			
Grain yield rating[2]			
Drought tolerance rating			
Staygreen rating[8]			
Early growth rating[6]			
Leaf disease rating[11]			
Whole plant digestibility[9]			
Starch and sugar[10]			

4 Bag calculator

Obtain planting populations from page 58. Determine the number of bags required for each paddock on your farm by completing the table below.

Paddock name				
Planting population (000's)	A			
Hectares	B	X	X	X
		÷ 80	÷ 80	÷ 80
Bags required	C	=	=	=

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