PIONEER

A YATES FAMILY BUSINESS

maize for Grain

2026-2027

Lightning strikes twice

Two time yield-winning Stobies share their strategies for success

+

Three new bin-filling hybrids

The importance of even emergence

A new biological advantage

PIONEER®
BRAND · PRODUCTS

NZ GROWN GRAINS

CERT. T.M.

It's my pleasure, as always, to share the latest edition of the Pioneer® Maize for Grain catalogue with you. I particularly want to thank the Stobie family, Bostock NZ, and Beau and Lani Thompson for allowing us to showcase their growing operations.

Last year marked our 50th year representing Pioneer in New Zealand. This year marks another significant milestone - the centennial anniversary of the Pioneer brand and its global business. This is a wonderful achievement, only made possible by the generations of growers and those who supply and service them, who have supported the Pioneer brand and business through the years.

This season, we are pleased to introduce P9091 (90 CRM), P0283 (102 CRM) and P0450 (104 CRM) to our line-up. These exciting new hybrids combine dependable all-round agronomics with excellent late-season plant health, delivering outstanding grain yield potential. Special thanks to our trial cooperators and contractors who harvest them along with the Pioneer research and seed production teams. Collectively, their efforts allow us to continue to bring ever-improving hybrids to market.

Whilst the current global environment is complex and challenging, the longer-term outlook for New Zealand grown maize grain is positive and we are pleased to support the NZ Grown Grain initiative. Last season's high milk solids payout further strengthened dairy demand for maize grain, with more farmers benefitting from the productivity, fertility and animal health benefits gained from including it in their in-shed blends.

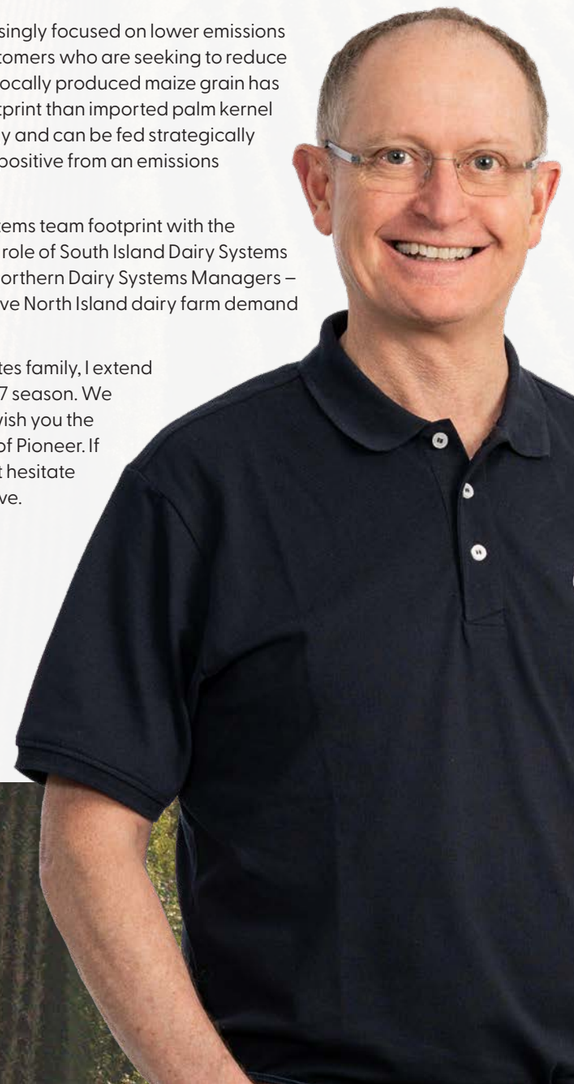
New Zealand dairy processors are increasingly focused on lower emissions milk, driven primarily by their offshore customers who are seeking to reduce their Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions. Locally produced maize grain has a substantially lower greenhouse gas footprint than imported palm kernel extract. Maize grain is also higher in energy and can be fed strategically to lift per cow performance, which is also positive from an emissions perspective.

We have recently expanded our farm systems team footprint with the appointment of Dr Grant Matthews to the role of South Island Dairy Systems Manager. This frees up more time for our northern Dairy Systems Managers – Matt Dalley and Wade Bell – to further drive North Island dairy farm demand for maize products.

On behalf of the Pioneer team and the Yates family, I extend our best wishes for a successful 2026–2027 season. We appreciate your continued support and wish you the very best as you "Plant the 100th season" of Pioneer. If we can assist you in any way, please don't hesitate to contact your local Pioneer representative.

With warmest regards,

William Yates
Managing Director



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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.

Paul Baker Yield Cup winners set a *new benchmark*

Waikato maize growers Donald and Craig Stobie believe that attention to detail is the key to delivering consistent maize grain performance across variable seasons. That focus delivered record-breaking results when the brothers won the Pioneer Maize Grain Competition in 2025 and set a new national grain yield record of 24.5 t/ha.

The Stobie family partnership, which includes Donald, his wife Brenda, brother Craig and their parents Duncan and Loraine, farm 445 hectares of peat soils at Gordonton. Each year, they grow around 200 hectares of maize, with approximately 80 hectares being harvested for grain and the balance taken as silage.

"We've been growing maize silage for about 31 years now, so maize has become a really important part of our system" says Donald. "This will be our 12th maize grain harvest".

Maize grain plays multiple roles on the Stobie farm. It provides income diversification, spreads workload through the year and is a valuable development and regrassing tool. Growing a combination of grain and silage provides flexibility, as end use can vary depending on season conditions, market demand and price.

Donald believes that good seedbed preparation is a critical part of establishing high-yielding crops. Permanent or annual pasture is sprayed out and left to fallow for around two weeks to allow roots to break down. The first pass is normally with the chisel plough, and the paddocks are power-harrowed ahead of planting. The aim is a consistent

| **OPPOSITE** Craig, Donald and Michael Stobie.

Farm walk

- Farm area 445 ha
- 80 ha maize grain and 200 ha maize silage
- Average grain yield 18 t/ha in 2024-25 season
- Key focus has been addressing paddock variability

seedbed that allows accurate depth control, uniform emergence and strong early vigour.

Planting generally takes place within an optimum window from mid- to late October, with timing dictated strictly by conditions rather than the calendar.

“Once we are in that window, we plant as soon as conditions allow it” says Donald.

Planting is carried out by a local contractor who pays careful attention to seed depth and spacing. Plant populations typically range between 85,000 and 105,000 seeds per hectare, adjusted according to paddock conditions and yield potential.

Hybrid selection is driven by resilience as much as yield. Seasonal risk is dominated by weather, events particularly summer storms.

“A cyclone in February is what an unfavourable season looks like” says Donald. “Wind damage, lodging or complete crop loss is largely out of our control, but choosing the right hybrid can help”.

“We’re looking for a strong, healthy plant with good disease resistance and the ability to yield when conditions allow but still perform in abnormal or unfavourable seasons”.

In the 2025-26 growing season, the family planted Pioneer® brand P0710, P0900 and P0937 for grain, and P1636 and P1185 for silage.

“We’ve had a long-term relationship with Pioneer” says Donald. “Pioneer seed quality is always very good, and their backup and support are second to none”.

The Stobies are constantly striving to maximise their maize crop yields. Their expectation was realised in the 2025 harvest when their commercial maize area yielded 18 t/ha and they also won the Paul Baker Cup for the highest maize grain yield in the Pioneer Maize Grain Yield Competition. Their winning entry of Pioneer® brand P1185 yielded 24.5 t/ha and broke the previous national record of 23.41 t/ha set by Gisborne grower Tom Newman in 2022.

> “We’ve had a long-term relationship with Pioneer. Pioneer seed quality is always very good, and their backup and support are second to none”

Donald attributes their yield success to the combination of good maize genetics, timely management and a favourable growing season.

“It’s about planting at the right time, getting the crop nutrition and herbicide chemistry right, and eliminating as many obstacles as you can through the season”.

Nutrient management is based on regular measurement rather than fixed programmes. The farm is divided into 22 management blocks, with annual soil testing carried out each season, typically in late August. That timing allows results to be reviewed and decisions to be made well ahead of spring.

Base fertiliser applications are guided by an independent advisor who considers soil test results as well as crop yield potential. Nitrogen is split between starter fertiliser and side-dressed urea knifed in later to improve efficiency and reduce losses.

Weed control follows a proactive approach. A strong pre-emergence programme provides the foundation. Post emergence applications are assessed on a paddock-by-paddock basis, depending on seasonal conditions and weed pressure. Donald has trialled and used a range of options, including atrazine based programmes such as Atraflow®, as well as alternative chemistry including Arietta® or Dominator®. He notes that spring conditions play a significant role in determining the effectiveness of post emergence control with a key challenge being cooler, wetter seasons when weed growth can outpace the maize crop. Regardless of the mix used, the aim is to keep paddocks clean through to harvest to avoid yield loss later in the season.

“Once you’ve invested that much in a crop, it doesn’t make sense to let weeds take yield away” says Donald.

Average paddock size on the Stobie farm is small, at around 1.8 ha and this means a higher proportion of headlands and edge. Over time, paddock variability was identified as the main constraint to lifting average yield.

Over successive seasons, the family invested in drainage, contouring and targeted soil testing to identify nutrient constraints in lower-performing areas. Capital fertiliser applications were then used to lift those zones, rather than chasing marginal gains in already strong areas. Improving uniformity proved key to lifting whole-farm averages.

“What used to let us down was variability within paddocks, including wet patches where the water sat and places with lower fertility” says Donald. “We’ve addressed that and so now we are focusing on lifting the average paddock yield”.

Harvest timing reflects a balance between grain moisture, drying costs and the need to establish winter pasture. Grain is generally harvested from late April through to early May, with moisture targets set to allow efficient drying while still enabling prompt regrassing.

Each winter, the family buys in and finishes around 6,000 lambs on the maize ground, Lambs arrive on farm from May and are all gone by the end of September. They start by grazing the silage area (which is planted in grass in March) and the grass which was established after the grain crops comes available from July onwards. This approach allows the Stobies to generate winter income, protect soil structure with continuous cover, and keep paddocks in good condition ahead of the next maize crop.

With a strong foundation in place, the Stobies' focus remains on refining their system year by year, confident that maize will continue to play an important role in the business into the future.

“Maize is an enjoyable crop to grow, and we enjoy the challenge of trying to lift yields each year”.

OPPOSITE BOTTOM LEFT Craig, Donald and Michael Stobie with Pioneer Regional Manager Craig Maxwell.

NEW ZEALAND GROWN®

Maize *hybrids*

Pioneer has a long heritage as an industry leader – from 100 years of hybrid innovation to a world-class germplasm library, advanced conventional breeding technologies and an extensive global research program. Pioneer® brand maize hybrids are for those growers who refuse to settle for anything less than a great yield of high-quality maize grain.

Pioneer's elite genetics are tested in our industry-leading New Zealand maize trialling program, which encompasses all the key maize grain 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 growing maize for grain in Northland or Canterbury or anywhere in between, we are confident you will find the right product for your paddock amongst this season's outstanding Pioneer hybrid 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 13) as the latest addition to our high performing Optimum® AQUAmax® grain hybrid range.

Meet the latest from Pioneer

Meet the latest from Pioneer – a new generation of hybrids developed to deliver consistent performance across a wide range of growing conditions. Built from elite genetics and refined through extensive multi location testing, these hybrids combine strong yield potential with the agronomic traits growers rely on. The result is more grain in the bin and a whole new level of profitability.

PIONEER® BRAND P9091

STRONG STARTER, POWERFUL FINISHER

See page 11

PIONEER® BRAND P0283

GREAT LOOKS, STRONG AGRONOMICS AND HIGH TEST WEIGHT

See page 13

PIONEER® BRAND P0450

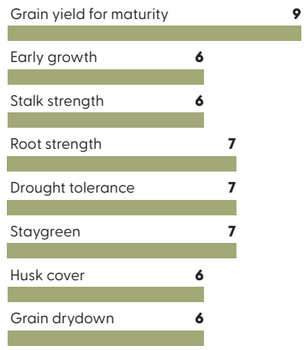
AGRONOMIC CONFIDENCE, SECURE YIELDS.

See page 13

NEW

PIONEER® P8086

CRM 80



Reliable early maturity hybrid with stong agronomics.

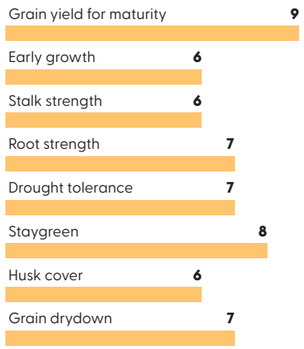
Similar in type, maturity and management requirements to **P8000**, which it replaced.

- **P8086** produced similar yields to **P8333** in lower North Island trials but has better standability and Northern Leaf Blight resistance.
- Good husk cover, a long cob packed with deep dent grain and fast drydown.
- Moderate in height with low ear placement, strong standability, drought tolerance, staygreen and Northern Leaf Blight ratings.

A valuable option for lower North Island and South Island growers, while providing a balance of yield and earliness in northern growing regions.

PIONEER® P8240

CRM 82



Higher yields for southern growers.

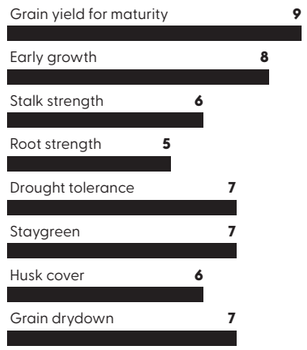
P8240 is a tall, high-yielding grain hybrid backed by strong drought tolerance, staygreen and standability.

- Balanced agronomic package including superior roots, which are a real asset in this maturity.
- Delivers significantly higher grain yields than **P8086** and **P8333** in the lower North Island and South Island.
- Established plant populations should be matched to assessed paddock yield potential.

Where high levels of Northern Leaf Blight are seasonal concerns, consider planting **P8086** or **P8711**.

PIONEER® P8333

CRM 83



Highly productive for cooler regions.

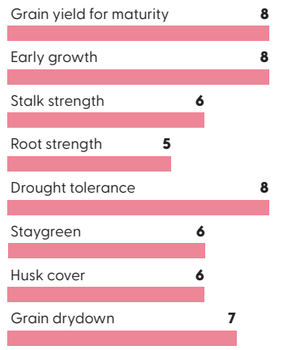
A tall plant with a long ear, good husk cover, supported by strong all-round agronomics, superior drought tolerance and staygreen.

- Fast drydown and good test weight.
- While slightly earlier than **P8666**, it has a similar in-paddock appearance.
- A tall leafy plant, so established plant populations should be at least 5,000 per hectare less than applied for **P8240**.

Delivers similar grain yields to **P8086** in the cooler regions of the lower North Island and South Island.

PIONEER® P8666

CRM 86



Widely adapted hybrid with strong agronomic properties.

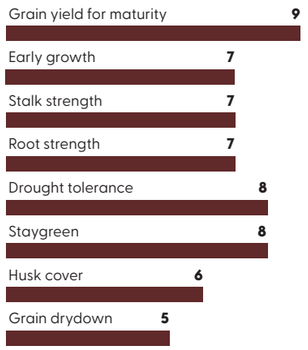
A tall plant with superior early growth, drought tolerance and strong all-round agronomics.

- Good husk cover, very good drydown and delivers high grain yields for maturity.
- Plant to establish 85,000 to 105,000 plants per hectare.
- Widely adapted where a hybrid of this maturity is required.

Plant with **P8711**, particularly where Northern Leaf Blight is a consideration.

PIONEER® P8711

CRM 87



Defensive winner with game-changing yields.

Tall hybrid with a balanced all-round agronomic and disease resistance package.

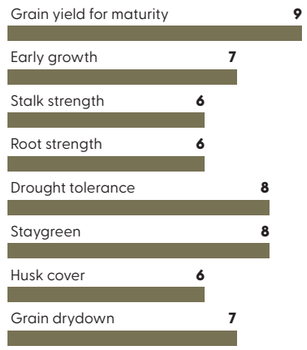
- High ratings for drought, Northern Leaf Blight, Rust and staygreen deliver season-long plant health and yield stability.
- **P8711** has average drydown, good husk cover, and produces high test weight grain.
- Research results show a new level of grain yield performance compared to **P8333** and **P8666**.

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

NEW

PIONEER® P9091

CRM 90



Strong starter, powerful finisher.

Important maturity option that outyields **P8711** 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.
- Good husks facilitate fast grain drydown.

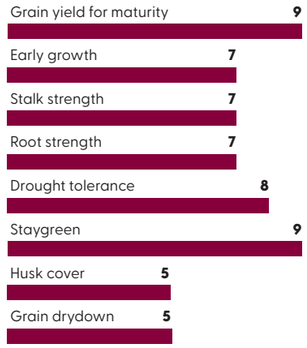
Plant with **P8711**, **P92575** or **P9400** depending on maturity requirements.

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 pages 47-48. Contact your local Pioneer Area Manager or merchant for further advice.

See page 46 for growing regions.

PIONEER® P92575

CRM 92



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

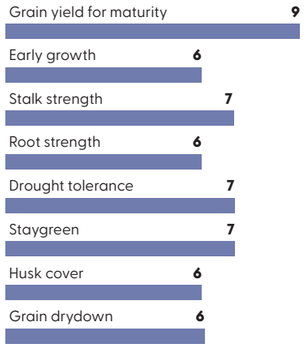
Plant where Northern Leaf Blight, Rust, drought tolerance and standability are seasonal concerns.

- Delivers strong emergence and early growth, is of average height while having superior roots and stalks.
- Offers improved disease resistance ratings and higher grain yields than **P9400**.
- Husk cover, grain drydown rates and test weights are average for maturity.

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

PIONEER® P9650

CRM 96



Security with performance.

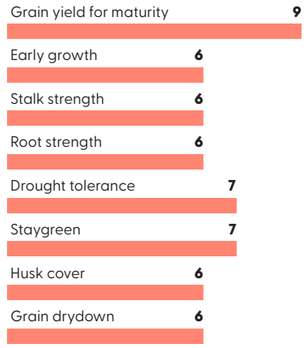
Offers yield stability for grain and silage.

- Moderate in plant height with an erect leaf habit, strong standability and drought tolerance.
- Agronomically balanced with strong all-round disease resistance, including Northern Leaf Blight.
- Good husk cover and drydown while delivering superior test weight grain.
- Trials show **P9650** is higher yielding than **P9400**.

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

PIONEER® P9978

CRM 99



Defensive. Stable. Productive.

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

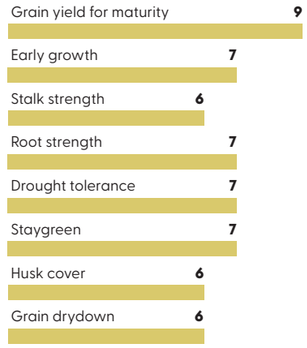
- Trials show **P9978** produces industry-leading grain yields in this maturity.
- Delivers in challenging through to high-yielding environments and will reward the time taken to plant the best seeding rate for the growing situation.
- When planting early or into cold, wet soils, switch to **P9650** or **P0283**.

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

NEW

PIONEER® P0283

CRM 102



Great looks, strong agronomics, and high-test weight.

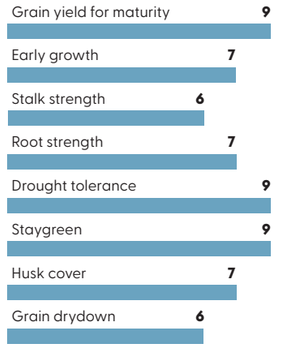
- Emerges strongly with matching early growth.
- Dependable all-round agronomics, drought tolerance, late season foliar health and staygreen support a hybrid with eye appeal.
- Matches the harvest moisture and yield performance of **P9978** while having stronger stress emergence and much higher test weight.
- Out yields **P0021** and **P0362**.

Stable companion for **P9978** & **P0450**.

NEW

PIONEER® P0450

CRM 104



Agronomic confidence, secure yields.

Very strong all-round yield, agronomic and disease resistance profile.

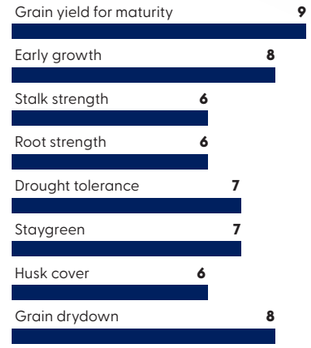
- Moderate plant height with very low ear placement, together with superior stalks and roots, delivers great standability.
- Superior Northern Leaf Blight resistance, exceptional drought tolerance and staygreen deliver season-long eye appeal and yield stability.
- Has superior husk cover during drydown and average test weights.
- A widely adapted hybrid which is most productive from Kaitaia to Napier.

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

Optimum AQUAmax®

PIONEER® P0640

CRM 106



Leaf disease champion delivering yield stability.

A balanced hybrid combining excellent early growth, all-round agronomics with desirable ear rot, superior Northern Leaf Blight, Common Rust and Eyespot resistances.

- Tall plant with sound standability, staygreen and drought tolerance.
- Supplies yield stability in moderate to high yield environments.
- Growers on peat soils should replace **P0640** with **P0710**, **P0900** or **P0937**.

Should be part of larger operations from Dargaville to Napier where foliar health, yield performance and fast drydown deliver value.

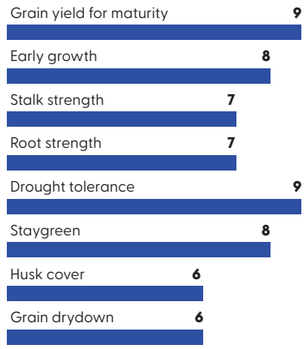
Pioneer hybrid trait comparison ratings are only valid within a range of + or - 4 CRM. These descriptions mainly feature product strengths. When choosing hybrids, also review carefully the trait ratings found in the table on pages 47-48. Contact your local Pioneer Area Manager or merchant for further advice.

See page 46 for growing regions.

NEW

PIONEER® P0710

CRM 107



Exceptional foliar health and yield stability – wet or dry!

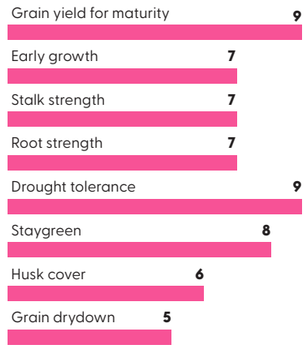
Optimum® AQUAmax® drought qualities provide tolerance to water and heat stress during flowering and grain fill stages.

- 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 grain yield performance to **P0900** and **P0937**.

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

PIONEER® P0900

CRM 109



A proven, stable, all-round hybrid.

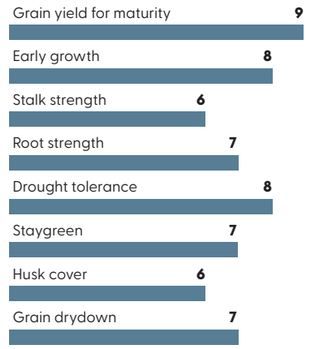
An exceptionally balanced package that delivers yield stability.

- Dependable standability, low ear placement, Optimum® AQUAmax® drought tolerance, great foliar health and staygreen.
- East Coast growers will value strong Head Smut resistance.
- A management-responsive hybrid that will benefit from adjusting the established plant population to match yield expectations.
- Companion with **P0640**, **P0710** or **P0937**.

Extensively planted between Dargaville and Napier.

PIONEER® P0937

CRM 109



Solid hybrid with next-generation grain yield.

Widely adapted high-yielding hybrid. Now the benchmark in this maturity.

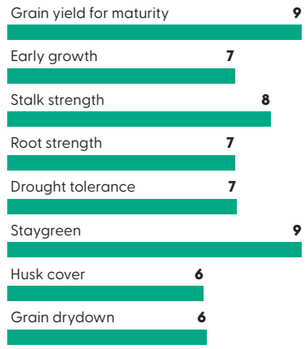
- Very appealing modern plant type, with low ear placement, erect leaves, and notable standability.
- Combines sound resistances to Northern Leaf Blight and Rust with strong stress emergence, early growth and drought tolerance.
- Good husk cover, fast drydown for maturity and average test weight grain.

P0937 is extensively planted in moderate to high-yielding situations from Northland to Hawke's Bay and warmer Rangitikei regions.

NEW

PIONEER® P1185

CRM 111



Foliar health and grain yield champion.

A widely adapted, defensive hybrid delivering high yields of high-test weight grain.

- Standout performer for Northern Leaf Blight and Rust resistances, staygreen and season-long plant health.
- Erect leaves, low ear placement, notable standability and is higher yielding than **P0937**.
- Based on prior season's 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.

Also available in 2026:

PIONEER® P9400 — CRM 94

PIONEER® P0021 — CRM 100

PIONEER® P0362 — CRM 103

PIONEER® P0891 — CRM 107

PIONEER® P1253 — CRM 109

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See page 46 for growing regions.

Giving your maize *the best possible start*

In maize grain production, the foundations for yield 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 which 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.

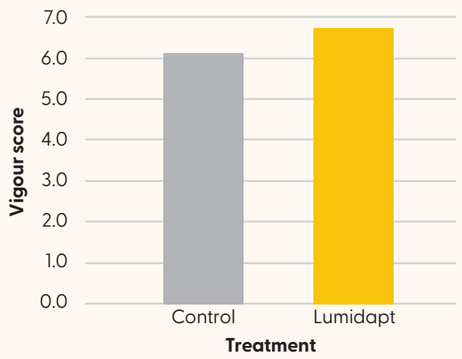
Stronger early root development improves access to soil moisture and nutrients, while improved leaf growth increases light interception. Together, these factors can drive early vigour – a key contributor to uniform crop establishment.

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



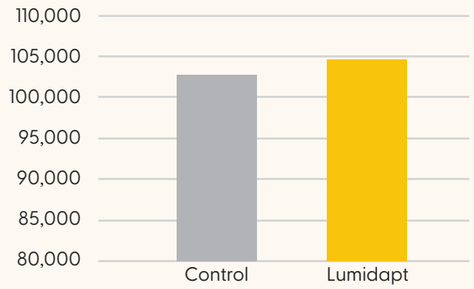
Results of six replicated trials show Lumidapt™ treated P9978 had a statistically significant (P< 0.05) increase in early vigour score when compared to a control with standard seed treatment.

Supporting plant population and stand consistency

For maize grain growers, establishment is about more than visual early growth – it is also about protecting 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 grain 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 grain 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 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

It pays to get maize to emerge evenly

The platform for a successful maize crop is built in the first few weeks after planting. While fertiliser programmes, weed control and hybrid selection all matter, few factors set the yield ceiling as clearly as timely emergence. Once the crop emerges, while some compensation can occur depending on timing and stand loss, there is no opportunity to replace missing plants and little chance to fully regain lost uniformity, which ultimately reduces yield potential.

In maize, establishment sets up the crop's architecture for the rest of the season. How evenly seedlings emerge determines how well plants compete for light, nutrients and moisture, and ultimately how efficiently the crop converts resources into grain yield.

The cost of late emergence

Maize is particularly sensitive to uneven emergence. Studies and on-farm experience consistently show that plants emerging even one to two leaf stages behind their neighbours act as weeds, not contributors, competing for resources but contributing little to final yield.

In practical terms:

- Plants emerging three or more days later are less likely to fully compensate and can reduce overall paddock yield.
- Where emergence is substantially delayed, plants often produce small cobs or no cob at all but still compete for nutrients and light.

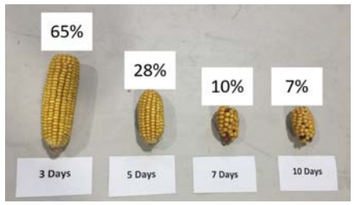


Figure 1: Ear size for plants that have delayed emergence relative to plants that emerged on Day 1 (Pioneer Rukuhia Research Station).

Figure 2: Ear size for plants that have delayed emergence (3,5,7 or 10 days) relative to normal emerging plants that were adjacent to them (Adj) or two plants away (Away). The adjacent cobs were slightly bigger but they did not make up for the yield loss from the delayed plants.

The yield impact comes from uneven plant size. Early plants dominate, shading weaker neighbours and reducing the crop's ability to intercept sunlight evenly across the paddock. Late plants struggle to compete for water and nutrients. A plant that is late to emerge rarely catches up later in the season, even with favourable conditions. Uniform emergence helps ensure a more uniform cob size, better grain fill, more even dry down and improved standability later in the season.

What goes wrong at planting?

While seed quality is critical, many establishment issues can be traced back to seedbed conditions and planter set-up. Common causes of uneven emergence include variable soil moisture, uneven planting depth across the paddock, poor seed-to-soil contact, inadequate residue management, incorrect downforce for soil conditions and high ground speed without sufficient row-unit control.

Good establishment starts well before the planter enters the paddock. A well-prepared seedbed should be firm underneath, friable on top, and even across the full working width.

Key planter setup principles include:

Appropriate planting depth

Aim to place seed into the soil moisture zone. The standard planting depth recommendation for maize is about 5cm. In drier situations, particularly if no rain is forecast within a few days, it may be better to plant slightly deeper since soil moisture variability is largest closest to the surface. If soil moisture is adequate and uniform at the target depth, planting deeper than 5 cm is unlikely to improve establishment and can delay emergence especially under cool conditions, increasing emergence variability. Deeper planting is generally most useful when moisture is more reliable at depth or when surface conditions are prone to drying.

Figure 3: Rootless corn syndrome caused by shallow planting followed by dry soil conditions.

Some people may prefer planting at less than 5 cm to speed up emergence, but this is not recommended as nodal roots typically initiate around 2 cm below the soil surface. Shallower planting means these roots are positioned at or near to the soil surface increasing the chance of rootless corn syndrome later in the season when hot, dry weather inhibits nodal root development.

Accurate downforce

Row units need enough pressure to maintain depth, but not so much that sidewall compaction restricts root growth. Because field conditions can change across a paddock, so the ability to automatically adjust downforce as conditions change can help maintain consistent depth and emergence.

Seed-to-soil contact

Closing wheels must firmly close the slot without compacting the seed zone. Poor closure creates air gaps and uneven moisture availability, delaying or staggering germination.

Ground speed discipline

Modern planters are capable of higher speeds, but only when conditions allow. In some situations, excessive speed can reduce depth control and seed placement accuracy, which can reduce uniform emergence.

Attention to residue

Uneven residue distribution can lead to variable soil temperature and moisture, particularly in early spring. Clearing residue from the row can help improve soil warming, which supports faster and more uniform emergence.

Technology helps, but it does not replace attention to detail. The most consistent maize establishment results come from operators who regularly check planting depth and spacing and adjust settings as conditions change.

If you are planting maize yourself, it pays to treat establishment as a yield-critical operation, not just getting seed in the ground. Small checks and adjustments made early can really protect yield potential later.

Show us your *planter*

Last spring we talked to Waikato-based John Austin (John Austin Ltd), and Shaun Hinton (Gavins Ltd) and Bay of Plenty maize grain grower Grant Nicol about their planters and some of the keys to establishing an even maize stand.

Gareth Reynolds at the wheel.

JOHN AUSTIN
John Austin Ltd,
Te Awamutu

JOHN AUSTIN LTD

Väderstad Tempo PowerShoot

What is your planter?

An 8-row Väderstad Tempo PowerShoot high speed planter. It has active hydraulic downforce and auto singulation on each row. Curve compensation ensures consistent population on curves and E-Control enables easy operation and monitoring. Solid fertiliser rate and flow is monitored with Clarity™ while vApplyHD® offers flow rate control and monitoring of liquid spraying.

What are you looking for in your next planter?

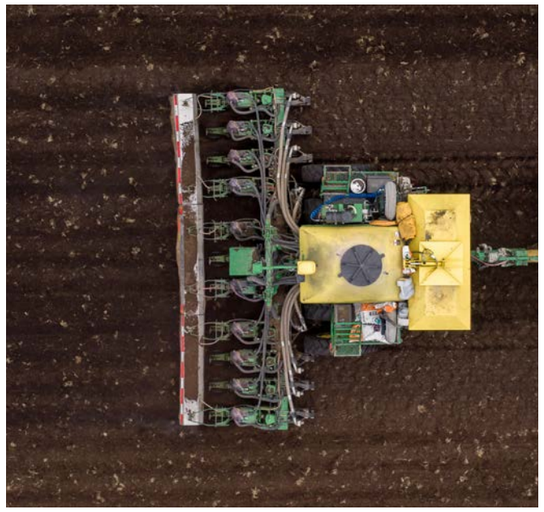
We will continue with Väderstad because planters are accurate, and easy for different team members to operate with simple monitoring and set-up. It would be good to have an improved closing system.

What do you think is the secret to achieving an even maize stand?

The right soil environment is critical. If you can plant into a fine, moist and friable seed bed that's free from residue, achieve consistent depth, good singulation and good seed-to-soil contact chances are your emergence will be good.

GAVINS LTD

John Deere ExactEmerge™



SHAUN HINTON
Gavins Ltd,
Gordonton

What is your planter?

A 12-row John Deere ExactEmerge™ planter which was purchased at the end of 2019. It has been modified to plant in 20-inch (51cm) rows with 30-inch (76cm) tramlines planting 11 rows across a 6-metre working width. It's also fitted with Dawn DuoSeed double disc fertiliser openers and DeltaForce® automated hydraulic downforce control.

What do you like the most about it?

The ease of operation and the accuracy of the monitoring system. If it says you are planting at 100% and you go back and look at the crop, it will be virtually perfect.

What do you think is the secret to achieving an even maize stand?

Having good seed bed preparation and uniform seed size and shape are really critical. The planter can't perform miracles and getting those things right will make it easier for the operator to do a good planting job.

GRANT NICOL
Opotiki

What is your planter?

An 8-row John Deere 1750 MaxEmerge™ vacuum planter. We had it modified by an engineering company in Hamilton and they added a 2-tonne hopper for bulk loading and fertiliser is blown back to the rows. They also folded the head and it's a really tight fold so it can fit through narrower gateways than some other planters.

What are you looking to add to your planter next?

Getting fertiliser application right is important because it's so expensive. My next step is to install a fertiliser monitoring system which can control flow better and monitor blockages.

What do you think is the secret to achieving an even maize stand?

A nice seedbed. If you've got soft, light and loamy soil it's a lot easier to get a good planting job than if the soil is clayey or there is too much rubble on top. The right seeding depth, making sure the fertiliser isn't too close to the seed and good weed control are also important. A lot comes down to the weather after planting, but you can't control that.

GRANT NICOL

John Deere 1750 MaxEmerge™

Apples at the core, maize *in the system*

While Bostock New Zealand is best known for being the largest organic apple producer in New Zealand, the wider operation is built around growing and marketing a range of premium produce and includes squash, onions and maize grain. Based in Hawke's Bay and 100% owned by John Bostock, Bostock NZ's philosophy is to work in partnership with nature to grow healthy, delicious produce, using sustainable practices to protect their land for future generations.

Cropping Manager Chris Zuiderwijk oversees the field operations for the company's large-scale arable programme which includes around 700 ha of conventional and 120 ha of organic maize grain each year.

"We crop around 1,600 ha each year around the Heretaunga Plains in southern Hawke's Bay" says Chris. "Within that footprint are around 80 cropping blocks ranging from about 5 ha through to 300 ha. Much of the land is leased over the summer period and then returned to the landowners for winter grazing".

Managing several crops across a large number of blocks requires a strong emphasis on efficiency, logistics, and repeatability. Over recent seasons, Bostock has actively consolidated its cropping footprint, prioritising larger, more contiguous blocks on the Heretaunga Plains to reduce travel time, improve machinery utilisation and lift overall system efficiency.

Maize grain fits Bostock's cropping programme because it works agronomically and commercially within the wider rotation.

"You can't grow squash or onions year on year" says Chris. "Maize is attractive because, unlike many process crops, we can have full control of the rotation – we can grow, store, process, and market it ourselves".

A defining feature of the Bostock NZ maize business is that the company owns and operates its own grain drying, storage and handling facilities located alongside the main packhouse and offices in Hastings.

Investment in modern storage, screening and handling technology allows grain to be dried and cleaned to consistent standards before sale to a range of end users including dairy farmers, poultry producers, and feed mills.

"Having storage on site allows the business to manage sales timing and maintain a consistent supply into the market" says Chris.

The conventional maize-grain programme focuses on lifting average yield while managing input costs.

"Because costs are high, we've been really

RIGHT John Bostock, Pioneer Area Manager Simon Begley and Chris Zuiderwijk (Bostock NZ).

> “Pioneer have consistently delivered high-performing genetics”

focusing on getting more irrigated land with a higher yield potential” says Chris. “We water strategically to reduce stress at critical growth stages and that has helped lift average maize grain yields to around 14 t/ha”.

Their maize establishment system is “very traditional”. Most paddocks are ripped and power harrowed, with ploughing used only where needed because it is “slow and inefficient”. Crops are planted from September to November at target populations of around 95,000 to 100,000 plants per hectare.

Nutrient management is driven by soil testing and a standardised base programme adjusted paddock by paddock. Starter fertiliser, usually Crop 20, is applied at sowing and urea is knifed in, to minimise losses and improve efficiency, when the maize is at knee height.

The Heretaunga Plains present a wide mix of soil types, including silt loams, peat soils and heavier clays, and that variability drives a paddock-specific approach to hybrid selection.

Chris says he is looking for “yield, yield and yield” alongside traits such as good early vigour, solid disease resistance, drought tolerance and good strong structure, so crops stand well through to harvest. Grain density and overall quality are also priorities.

In the past few seasons, Pioneer® brand P0937, P0900, P0640 and P1185 have featured strongly.

“We’ve been utilising the new hybrids coming through because they have really good high yield potential” says Chris. “In our best paddocks, those genetics have delivered outstanding results, with yields exceeding 20 t/ha in recent seasons”.

Bostock NZ won the Gisborne and Hawke’s Bay Regional Cup in the Pioneer Maize Grain Yield Competition in 2024 and 2025 with P0937 and P0900 yielding 21.30 and 22.42 tDM/ha, respectively.

Even in the conventional maize programme, Bostock applies a deliberately light-touch approach to chemical use. In practice, that means that while pre-emergence herbicides are typically applied after planting, the requirement for post-emergence herbicide application is assessed on a paddock-by-paddock basis rather than being applied automatically.

“We check every paddock and if we don’t need to spray it, we won’t” says Chris. “Knifing in the urea helps because it also disrupts the weeds to some extent”.

Organic maize grain forms a smaller but increasingly important part of the programme. Management differs significantly, particularly around weed control and nutrition.

“Organic maize is a really exciting part of our business because it takes a little bit more strategy and even better timing” says Chris. “It takes more effort, but the value’s higher, so it’s really worth it for us”.

Weed control in organic maize relies on a suite of mechanical tools, including fine-tine weeders and inter-row finger weeders, with multiple passes timed carefully to crop growth stage. The nutrition programme is built around certified inputs, including composts, chicken manure and newer high-analysis organic nitrogen products, applied annually to support soil fertility and crop demand. Organic maize also supports Bostock’s wider organic squash and onions rotations.

In every activity, Bostock NZ is always looking for long-term sustainable relationships with a view to ongoing business. For Chris, Pioneer is not just a seed supplier but also a key partner in their maize programme.

“Pioneer have consistently delivered high-performing genetics” says Chris. “...and our local Pioneer Area Manager Simon Begley is part of our cropping team, helping us analyse paddocks and select the most appropriate hybrids to ensure we get the best possible result”.

From Simon’s perspective, working with the Bostock NZ team is always a pleasure.

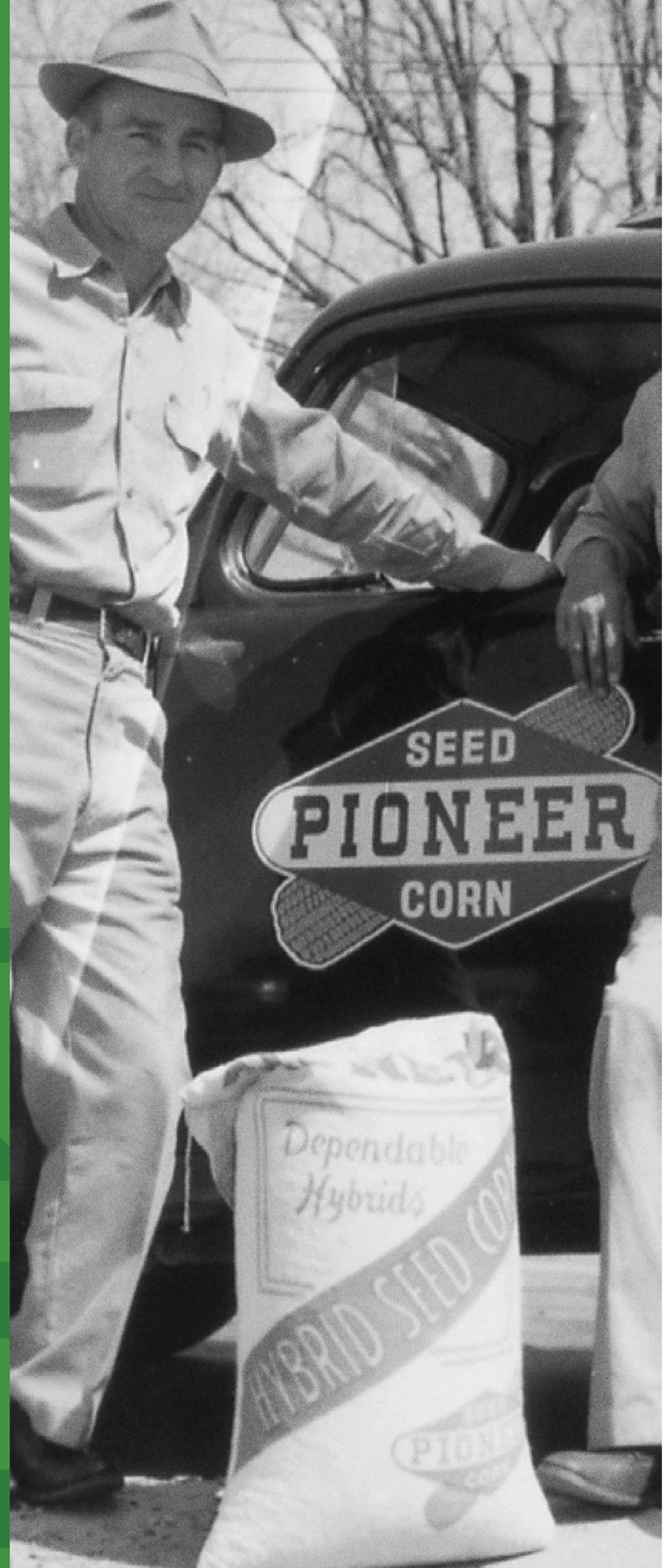
“The Bostock NZ team are very professional, and they are always striving to get the best results from their crops” says Simon. “It’s a pleasure to work with them”.

Farm walk

- 1,600 ha cropping area
- 700 ha conventional and 120 ha organic maize grain
- Average yield 14 t/ha
- Strong focus on paddock-specific hybrid selection

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.

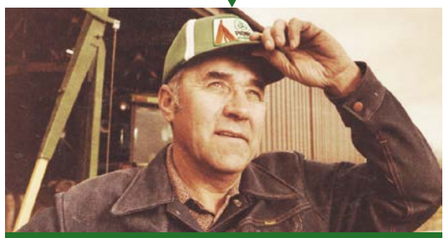
1926 - 1945

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.

A steady approach to growing *maize grain*

BEAU AND LANI THOMPSON, AWAKERI, BAY OF PLENTY

A long family history of maize grain growing underpins Beau and Lani Thompson's business.

Walter Thompson and Henry Ernest, Beau's paternal and maternal grandfathers, who were in business together, were among the first to grow maize in the Eastern Bay of Plenty pre-WW2. Their cobs were dried in cribs around Paroa, where Henry Ernest's descendants still grow maize today.

In the 1970s, Walter Thompson's youngest son, Jim, grew small amounts of maize at Awakeri and Poroporo. Around 1990, his son Beau began on a small scale at Awakeri. Over the past 30 years, he has expanded to a moderate operation across owned and leased land, reaching up to 400 hectares in some years.

Beau says the operation now spans a mix of properties.

"The home farm is about 100 hectares, and we've probably got around 80 hectares in maize for grain. Beyond that, there's a spread of other blocks, some owned and some leased, ranging from small eight-hectare paddocks through to much larger areas".

That mix of land types, soil profiles and lease arrangements has shaped Beau's farming philosophy over time. In a region characterised by light, free-draining sands and variable seasonal conditions, his focus has always been on managing risk while still chasing yield.

"Our home farm is on free-draining sand, and it can yield incredibly well given the right season but poorly in a dry year" says Beau. "The other blocks are on a range of soil types and have varying yield potential".

Across the whole business, Beau budgets on average grain yields of 12 to 13 t/ha, while accepting the natural variability that comes with farming multiple blocks with different histories and base fertility.

"You can have areas doing 17 or 18 t/ha in a good year, but there will always be parts that are closer to 10 t/ha".

When it comes to hybrid selection, Beau is clear about his priorities.

"Effectively, we're looking for durability and the potential to yield".

Durability in Beau's system has traditionally meant a strong focus on drought tolerance. However, recent summer cyclones have highlighted that standability is also important.

"This year in particular, we've had a lot of wind damage, so we'll have to consider that when choosing the hybrids we grow going forward".

In the 2025-26 season, Beau planted Pioneer® brand P9978, P0900, and P1185, selected for their consistent performance across a wide range of conditions.

Maize ground preparation starts in early spring after pasture silage harvest.

"We're probably a bit old-fashioned" says Beau. "We're all conventional cultivation".

The system includes ploughing or discing, followed by deep ripping in most years, before final seedbed preparation using either a roller till or power harrows.

While alternative crop establishment systems remain of interest, Beau takes a measured approach to change.

"You never say never, but we've seen a lot of practices come and go. Some of the most interesting developments take two or three attempts before they stick".

Maize planting typically begins in early October and can extend through to November, depending on seasonal conditions and the workload across multiple blocks. Beau uses a John Deere planter fitted with Precision Planting technology, including vDrive electric-drive seed meters and Deltaforce active hydraulic downforce. Planting populations typically range between 86,000 and 96,000 plants per hectare, adjusted to suit soil type and yield potential.

Soil testing is carried out most years across the operation, with base fertiliser rates set accordingly. Starter fertiliser is applied as a liquid product, supplied locally, at around 300 to 350 litres per hectare.

"We base everything on what the soil tests are telling us" says Beau.

Maize grain harvest takes place from April through to June. Beau handles all operations in-house, using a combination of John Deere 9550 and S660 combines.

Following harvest, most blocks are sown with an annual ryegrass, which is cut or baled for silage. On the home farm, the ryegrass grown on the maize ground is integrated into Beau's cattle finishing operation, with store cattle grazed over winter and sold when they are ready.

"It's a flexible system" says Beau. "When they're ready, they go. When we need more, we buy more".

Over the years, Beau has worked closely with the Pioneer team in the Bay of Plenty, developing strong professional relationships and a high level of trust.

Reflecting on his long involvement with Pioneer, Beau sums it up simply.

"It's a good company, it's got better hybrids, and it's got the best people".

For Beau, that is what gives value beyond the bag of seed.

"It's not about the cost of seed per bag. It's about what comes with it. The support, the integrity, and the commitment to the industry. That, to me, is the value of Pioneer seed".

Farm walk

- Growing maize for more than 30 years
- 400 ha maize grain across a mix of owned and leased land
- Average 12-13 t/ha yield across multiple blocks
- Increasing focus on standability alongside drought tolerance

> "It's not about the cost of seed per bag. It's about what comes with it. The support, the integrity, and the commitment to the industry. That, to me, is the value of Pioneer seed"

LEFT Beau and Lani Thompson with Pioneer Regional Manager Craig Maxwell.

Pioneer Maize for Grain *Yield Competition*

Congratulations to Waikato growers Donald and Craig Stobie, who were the 2025 Paul Baker Cup winners with Pioneer® brand P1185, achieving a record-setting yield of 24.5 t/ha.

Since its inception in 2008, the National Yield Competition has only been won twice by a Waikato grower, and both times the winner was the Stobies. To read more about their maize grain growing operation, see page 4.

Donald, Craig and Michael Stobie.

The Pioneer Maize for Grain Yield Competition recognises the grain growers who have achieved the highest yields with Pioneer® brand maize hybrids on their farms. All on-farm cooperators of the Pioneer Product Advancement Trials (PAT) automatically entered into the competition.

NATIONAL YIELD COMPETITION WINNERS

YEAR	WINNER	HYBRID	YIELD (T/HA)	REGION
2008	Brian Amor	34B97	20.01	Gisborne/Hawke's Bay
2009	Brownrigg Agriculture	34B97	19.30	Gisborne/Hawke's Bay
2010	Brian Amor	34D71	19.28	Gisborne/Hawke's Bay
2011	Geoff MacGregor	P0537	19.93	Gisborne/Hawke's Bay
2012	Brian Amor	P0537	19.56	Gisborne/Hawke's Bay
2013	Brownrigg Agriculture	P1253	20.23	Gisborne/Hawke's Bay
2014	Brian Amor	P1253	21.16	Gisborne/Hawke's Bay
2015	Brownrigg Agriculture	P1253	20.92	Gisborne/Hawke's Bay
2016	Donald & Craig Stobie	P1253	21.01	Waikato
2017	Bostock New Zealand	P0640	19.35	Gisborne/Hawke's Bay
2018	Brian Amor	P1253	20.39	Gisborne/Hawke's Bay
2019	*Not awarded in 2019*	-	-	-
2020	Stuart Gray	P0937	23.27	Gisborne/Hawke's Bay
2021	Tom Newman	P0640	22.33	Gisborne/Hawke's Bay
2022	Tom Newman	P0900	23.41	Gisborne/Hawke's Bay
2023	Simon Nitschke	P0937	20.20	Manawatū/Rangitīkei
2024	Simon Nitschke	P0937	21.40	Manawatū/Rangitīkei
2025	Donald & Craig Stobie	P1185	24.50	Waikato

2025 REGIONAL YIELD COMPETITION WINNERS

REGION	WINNER	HYBRID	YIELD (T/HA)
Northland & South Auckland	Avoca Holdings Ltd	P1185	17.80
Waikato	Donald & Craig Stobie	P1185	24.50
Bay of Plenty	Gavins Ltd	P1185	20.00
Gisborne & Hawke's Bay	Bostock New Zealand	P0900	22.42
Manawatū & Rangitīkei	Tim Harris	P0937	22.40
South Island	Mark Carey Contracting	P9127	16.10

For the regional winners from prior seasons, visit www.pioneer.co.nz/paulbakercup

Maize grain

Indicative maize for grain costs of production for the 2026-27 season

The economics of growing maize for grain are dependent on growing costs, crop yield and the price received per tonne of grain. As a guide, the approximate fixed and variable costs to grow maize for grain are shown in this table. All costs exclude GST and were indicative at 31 March 2026. **Given current price volatility we would encourage you to complete your own budget prior to the start of the growing season.** Please contact your local merchant representative or contractor to establish current costs.

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

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

	Growing and harvest costs	Indicative cost estimate ($/ha)	My costs ($/ha)
Pre-planting	Cost of leased land[1]	?	
	Soil tests, other	10	
	Base: Lime @ 1 t/ha + application	155	
	Base fertiliser: 300 kg/ha + application	330	
	Cultivation: To planting specifications	545	
Planting	Pioneer® brand maize seed P9978 @ 94,000/ha	610	
	FAR levy ($1.00/10,000 kernels @ 94,000/ha)	10	
	Pioneer L-400 seed treatment	150	
	Starter fertiliser: 250 kg/ha DAP + application	415	
	Planting	230	
Post-planting	Pre emergence weed control + application	125	
	Post emergence weed control + application	115	
	Side dressing: 250 kg/ha urea + application	370	
	Harvest: Combine	600	
Total input costs per hectare		**$3,665**	
Interest on input costs excluding harvest			
	Interest on $3,065 @ 6.5% for 8 months	$135	
Total costs (inputs & interest)		**$3,800**	

Cartage and drying costs

Yield

	Tonnes per hectare: DRY (@ 14% moisture)	**10.00**	**11.00**	**12.00**	**13.00**	**14.00**
	Tonnes per hectare: WET (@ 22% moisture)	11.03	12.13	13.23	14.33	15.44
Cartage and drying costs ($)						
	Cartage - 50 km @ $30 per wet tonne	331	364	397	430	463
	Drying (from 22% - 14%) @ $52 per wet tonne	573	631	688	745	803
	Total drying costs per hectare	**904**	**995**	**1,085**	**1,175**	**1,266**
Cost summary ($)						
	Input costs	3,665	3,665	3,665	3,665	3,665
	Interest (on input costs)	135	135	135	135	135
	Drying costs & cartage costs	904	995	1,085	1,175	1,266
	Total costs	**4,704**	**4,795**	**4,885**	**4,975**	**5,066**

Assumptions

1. **Costs to grow, harvest, transport and dry the crop are estimates only. Estimates are based on a sample of contractor rates, other typical industry charges and product costs. All costs exclude GST and were indicative at 31 March 2026.**
2. 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.
3. Medium yield growing environment where 94,000 seeds of hybrid P9978 are planted per hectare.
4. Wet (harvest) moisture content of 22%.

Important

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

Notes:

Hybrid recommendations for grain by region

Region 1

Northland,
North Auckland

Hybrids	CRM range
P8086	<85
P8711	86-93
NEW P9091	
P92575	94-99
P9400	
P9650	
P9978	
P0021	100-107
NEW P0283	
P0362	
NEW P0450	
P0640	
NEW P0710	
P0891	>108
P0900	
P0937	
NEW P1185	

Region 2

South Auckland,
North & Central
Waikato

Hybrids	CRM range
P8086	<85
P8711	86-93
NEW P9091	
P92575	94-99
P9400	
P9650	
P9978	
P0021	100-107
NEW P0283	
P0362	
NEW P0450	
P0640	
NEW P0710	
P0891	>108
P0900	
P0937	
NEW P1185	

Region 3

Coastal BOP,
Gisborne & Northern
Hawke's Bay

Hybrids	CRM range
P8711	85-93
NEW P9091	
P92575	94-99
P9400	
P9650	
P9978	
P0021	100-107
NEW P0283	
P0362	
NEW P0450	
P0640	
NEW P0710	
P0891	>108
P0900	
P0937	
NEW P1185	
P1253	

Region 4

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

Hybrids	CRM range
P8086	<85
P8240	
P8333	
P8666	86-93
P8711	
NEW P9091	
P92575	94-99
P9400	
P9650	
P9978	
P0021	>100
NEW P0283	
P0362	
NEW P0450	

Region 5

Nelson &
Marlborough

Hybrids	CRM range
P8086	<85
P8240	
P8333	
P8666	86-93
P8711	
NEW P9091	
P92575	94-99
P9400	
P9650	
P9978	
P0021	>100
NEW P0283	
P0362	

Region 6

North &
Mid Canterbury

Hybrids	CRM range
P8086	<83
P8240	
P8333	
P8666	84-86
P8711	>87

Pioneer® brand maize for grain hybrid trait characteristics for 2026-27

		Maturity			Yield			Plant and agronomic traits										Grain quality	
	Hybrid	CRM to black layer[1]	CRM to silking[2]	CRM to grain harvest moisture (24%)[3]	Grain yield for maturity[4]	Adaption to high population[5]	Adaption to low population (ear flex)[6]	Drought tolerance	Stalk strength	Root strength	Stress emergence[7]	Early growth[8]	Plant height[9]	Ear Height[10]	Staygreen[11]	Husk cover[12]	Grain drydown[13]	Grain appearance[14]	Test weight
	P8086	80	80	82	9	7	7	7	6	7	6	6	6	4	7	6	6	6	5
	P8240	82	82	82	9	6	9	7	6	7	6	6	8	6	8	6	7	7	6
	P8333	83	83	81	9	5	9	7	6	5	6	8	7	6	7	6	7	7	7
	P8666	86	86	86	8	5	9	8	6	5	6	8	7	6	6	6	7	7	6
	P8711	87	87	90	9	6	9	8	7	7	6	7	8	5	8	6	5	6	6
NEW	P9091	90	90	90	9	7	7	8	6	6	7	7	6	5	8	6	7	6	5
	P92575	92	92	95	9	9	7	8	7	7	7	7	6	5	9	5	5	6	5
	P9400	94	94	94	7	6	9	7	7	7	4	7	8	7	6	5	6	7	7
	P9650	96	96	97	9	9	7	7	7	6	6	6	6	5	7	6	6	6	7
	P9978	99	99	99	9	9	7	7	6	6	5	6	7	6	7	6	6	6	5
	P0021	100	100	100	7	9	6	7	6	7	7	9	6	5	7	6	6	5	6
NEW	P0283	102	102	101	9	9	7	7	6	7	7	7	6	5	7	6	6	7	6
	P0362	103	103	104	8	9	6	7	6	7	6	6	7	5	8	6	5	6	6
NEW	P0450	104	104	102	9	9	7	9	6	7	5	7	6	4	9	7	6	6	5
	P0640	106	106	104	9	6	9	7	6	6	6	8	8	6	7	6	8	6	5
NEW	P0710	107	107	108	9	9	6	9	7	7	7	8	6	4	8	6	6	6	5
	P0891	107	107	107	7	9	6	7	8	6	4	6	7	4	7	6	6	9	9
	P0900	109	109	109	9	9	9	9	7	7	7	7	7	5	8	6	5	6	6
	P0937	109	108	109	9	9	7	8	6	7	7	8	6	4	7	6	7	6	5
	P1253	109	109	109	7	6	6	7	6	5	4	6	6	5	6	6	6	9	9
NEW	P1185	111	110	111	9	7	7	7	8	7	7	7	6	5	9	6	6	8	7

Ratings 9 = Outstanding 1 = Poor - = Insufficient data available NEW = New hybrid
CRM = Comparative Relative Maturity n/a = Not applicable HT/AC = Refer to page 49, point 15

Pioneer sets tough yet honest standards when rating maize hybrids. These ratings are based on comparisons with other Pioneer® brand hybrids, **NOT** competitor hybrids and on average performance across areas of adaptation under normal conditions. The ratings are based on both customer 'side-by-side' paddock experience and research comparison data. Individual seasons and paddock ratings may show a variation from these average comparative ratings. Extreme conditions may adversely affect performance. Notes on performance traits can be found on page 49.

Disease precaution

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

Food grade characteristics							Disease resistance ratings [*23]						Recommended established plant populations (000'S/HA) [*24, 25, 26]				
Processing use [15]	Kernel hardness [16]	Kernel crown [17]	Kernel red streak [18]	Kernel size [19]	Horny endosperm [20]	Kernel colour [21]	Northern leaf blight [22]	Common Rust [22]	Eyespot [22]	Head Smut	Fusarium ear rot	Diplodia ear rot	Gibberella ear rot	Challenging yield environments	Medium yield environments	High yield environments	Hybrid
n/a	6	6	7	7	6	6	6	7	7	6	-	-	-	90	100	115	P8086
n/a	7	6	7	6	6	7	5	5	7	6	6	6	6	90	100	115	P8240
n/a	6	6	6	7	6	6	5	6	7	4	6	6	5	85	95	105	P8333
n/a	6	5	6	8	6	6	5	6	7	6	6	6	6	85	95	105	P8666
n/a	6	6	7	7	6	7	7	7	6	6	5	-	6	90	100	110	P8711
n/a	5	5	6	6	5	6	6	6	6	6	5	-	-	85	95	105	P9091 NEW
n/a	5	5	7	6	5	7	8	7	6	6	5	-	7	85	95	105	P92575
n/a	7	6	5	6	6	7	7	6	6	7	5	7	6	85	95	105	P9400
n/a	7	7	7	9	7	7	7	7	7	6	5	6	7	85	95	110	P9650
n/a	5	5	6	7	5	6	7	7	6	6	5	6	5	85	95	105	P9978
n/a	6	6	7	6	6	7	7	6	5	7	6	7	7	85	95	100	P0021
n/a	6	7	7	6	6	7	7	6	-	5	5	-	6	85	95	105	P0283 NEW
n/a	6	6	7	7	6	6	6	7	7	6	6	6	5	85	95	105	P0362
n/a	5	5	6	7	5	7	7	7	-	5	6	-	5	80	95	110	P0450 NEW
n/a	5	5	6	6	4	6	6	7	6	6	5	6	7	85	95	100	P0640
n/a	5	5	6	7	4	7	7	7	6	6	6	-	5	80	95	110	P0710 NEW
HT/AC	9	8	7	5	8	5	6	6	6	5	5	5	6	85	95	105	P0891
n/a	6	6	7	7	5	6	7	7	6	7	4	5	5	80	90	110	P0900
n/a	5	6	6	6	4	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	4	85	95	110	P0937
HT/AC	9	8	9	5	9	5	5	6	5	5	6	6	5	88	94	100	P1253
HT/AC	7	7	9	8	7	9	8	8	6	-	5	5	-	80	90	100	P1185 NEW

The hybrid descriptions in all New Zealand Pioneer® brand products publications conform to strict word usage protocols approved and used by Pioneer around the world. We do not use descriptive adjectives randomly or loosely. We have a policy of avoiding exaggerated superlatives in product descriptions or product discussions. The following words are those approved for use in the product performance descriptions listed on pages 8-15 of this catalogue.

Trait ratings	**Word and numeric alignment for yield & agronomic traits**
8-9	Excellent, exceptional, outstanding, superb, impressive, industry-leading.
7	Superior, very good, strong, sound, reliable, stable, dependable, consistent.
6	Good, above average, sound, reliable, stable, dependable, consistent.
5	Average, acceptable, adequate, moderate.
4	Acceptable, slightly below average.
1-3	Marginal, susceptible, below average.

Trait ratings	**Word and numeric alignment for disease traits**
8-9	Highly resistant, excellent, exceptional, outstanding, impressive.
6-7	Resistant, superior, strong, very good.
4-5	Intermediate, moderate, adequate, acceptable.
1-3	Susceptible (caution on use if disease is prevalent).

Trait characteristic notes

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

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

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

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

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

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

[7] **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.

[8] **Early growth ratings:**
Taken when two leaf collars are visible.

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

[10] **Ear height:**
9 = High. 1 = Low.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[19] **Kernel size:**
A higher score indicates greater percentage of larger kernels.

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

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

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

[23] **Disease resistance ratings:**
8-9 = Highly resistant. 6-7 = Resistant.
4-5 = Moderately resistant. 1-3 = Susceptible.
– = Insufficient data available.
Disease ratings are based on overseas and New Zealand observations. Scores are based on visual assessment only and not on yield reduction data.

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

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

[26] **Growing environment definitions:**
May include some or all of the following characteristics:

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

Publication abbreviations

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

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