

Half Milkline 23rd Sept below 250ft Cornwall 2003



Kernels Left to Right:

- Half Milkline - ideal harvest stage - dry matter yield per acre maximised and dry matter between 28-32% - 28% in Green crops.
- 1/4-1/3rd Milkline
- Cheesy - Late sown (end May) later maturing variety

Scimitar & Kingdom

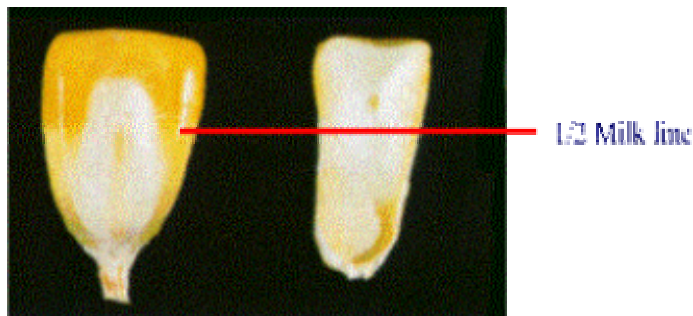
The Best Varieties for late sowing 2004 or on high ground will be

- **Scimitar** from British Seed Houses - first listed 2003 closely followed by

Kingdom from Advanta first listed 2003

Half Milk Line

The milkline is the hard starch layer seen from the crown (top) of the kernel towards the base. In this picture the cob's outward appearance has changed from a pale yellow cream to reddy yellow. The line between the reddy yellow and pale yellow is known as the Milk line.



When to harvest

Maize is best harvested at 28-35% moisture and preferred moisture of 28-32% dependant on cob ripeness to avoid over heating.

It is perfectly satisfactory to harvest an outwardly green crop at 1/4-milkline (28-30% moisture), It is not satisfactory to harvest a bone white crop at 3/4 milkline (40% DM)

Harvest Conditions

This Tuesday 23rd September Cornish crops at or below 300ft sown on time in a favourable aspect are at 1/4- 1/2 milk line and leaves green - with little eyespot.

Above 300ft or sown in June crops are green - little eyespot - with pale creamy to just starting reddy yellow cobs ie cheesy to 1/4 milkline. These need a week or two further.

Additive or Not

Always salt the top and sides with 3kg and 6kg rock salt respectively

28-32% crops will not need an additive if well rolled - with two tractors rolling full time - use the biggest weighted tractor at or above 7tons in no greater than 4 inch packing layers. A little grey Fergie is no help at all.

32-35% Crops will benefit from any L.planetarum additive.

Over 35% Crops require - in particular - for summer feeding Biotal's / Pioneer's L.Buchneri

On feeding out - tie a wide brush to the tractor drivers arm - he should be able to see his face in the concrete. Minimum feed out rate in the summer is 1ft per day.

Corn Cracker and TLC

A review of US Literature by Shaver - Wisconsin USA reveals a corn cracker is NOT needed for COBS with kernels less than $\frac{1}{4}$ milklane and can be harvested at $\frac{1}{2}$ inch TLC (theoretical length of cut). Crops above $\frac{1}{4}$ milklane need the corn cracker and as close to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch TLC as possible.

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