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Later maturing varieties do well under film

Late and medium-late maturing varieties produce enough mass and quality for putting them under film. This shows from several demo-plots, where several varieties have been compared with one another. Late varieties gave high yields.

After varying results in 2012, due to a very wet spring, the results from 2013 are a whole lot more stable, so concludes Hein-Willem Leeraar, consultant. The advantage, built up under film in the wet and cold spring, was still noticeable in summer. The growth spurt from the maize in the open, realized in summer, could not make up any more for the accumulated amount of starch, built up over the season. Also the Samco machine has been improved over time, with less wheel pressure on the soil. Another improvement has to do with the width of the tractor wheels with such an effect, that sowing is done in the row where the tractor wheel has not been driving on just before.

Montfoort

The past year several demo-fields have been made, to compare varieties. Especially the demo field in Montfoort, organised by the farmers cooperative 'De Samenwerking' and contractor Hans van Leeuwen showed remarkable results. In the trial the limit was looked for as far as lateness of maturity is concerned. "We used varieties, normally not sown in the Netherlands", says Albert Snoei, spokesman for the coop. The demo field with eight different varieties under film yielded on average 21,8 ton of dry matter per hectare with a dry matter percentage of 37,8. On average the fresh samples contained 383 gram of starch per kg dry matter with a total of 8351 kg of starch per ha (see table below).

Ternaard

At the trialfield of Limagrain on the farm of the family De Graaf in Ternaard an average of 17,8 ton of dry matter was reached with a dry matter percentage of 36,7. The starchcontent was with 402 gram per kg of dry matter a little higher than in Montfoort, but the total amount of starch per hectare was lower: 7367 kg. "The crop has been successful. The grower has been successful with waiting for favourable circumstances before starting to sow", says Fred Lugthart, spokesman for Limagrain. "Especially the late varieties have done well and yield enough mass and quality. That is necessary to gain money from a hectare." Remarkable was the result of LG224, which yielded in Ternaard much more than in Montfoort, with 8038 kg of starch per hectare the best yielding variety of the demo.

Friens

The trialfield of Innoseeds on the farm of family Hylkema in Friens yielded on average 18,5 ton of dry matter per hectare with a dry matter percentage of 32,3 and a starch content of 387 grams per kg of dry matter. The total amount of starch in kg per hectare was on average 7184 kg. Also in this field the later varieties yielded better than the early ones. Messago was best, but Borelli and Sunstar yielded fine as well. "Dairyfarmers want mass. The late varieties under film mature on time and have a perfect starch- and dry matter content", says Hendrik Nagelhoud, spokesman for Innoseeds.