

Silage Hybrids as the Backbone of Animal Production



Maize Silage Hybrids

Good maize silage plays an important role in intensive stock farming. Silage-making is like child's play with PANNAR's complete package of maize silage hybrids.

The hybrids that provide the best grain production are generally recommended for silage production. The higher the grain yield, the better the quality of the silage. The planting of cheap hybrids for silage-making is therefore not recommended.

One of the biggest challenges in making quality silage is to cut and ensile the maize at the right time. The optimal time for ensiling is when the silage reaches a moisture content of 72% to 62% (approximately the 50% milk line). It is extremely important that the maize be cut and ensiled in this critical window period, otherwise big losses can occur. Dry material accumulates at a rate of approximately 0.5% per day, which gives you 20 days for ensiling maize for each planting date.

Hybrids from the medium to medium late growth class usually enjoy preference. PANNAR's ultra early hybrids are also suitable if the producer is equipped to manage them because the optimal window period for cutting is reduced.

Producers also plant ultra early hybrids if they want to establish a forage crop early in the autumn. Silage hybrids are generally planted at a plant population of at least 10% higher than that used for grain production. When ultra early hybrids are used for silage, they are planted at a much higher plant population than maize in the other growth classes. The reason for this is that the ultra early hybrids are shorter plants with fewer leaves.

PANNAR markets a range of high yielding hybrids that produce excellent quality silage. The package includes, among others, PAN 6013B, PAN 6P-563R, PAN 6Q-521R, PAN 6Q-321B, PAN 6777, PAN 6P-110, PAN 6616 and PAN 6966, which traditionally are popular for grain as well as silage. PAN 7M-97 is also available which dries at a slower rate with the advantage of a longer cutting window period for silage-making. It has a higher yield potential, excellent leaf disease resistance and stays green for a very long time (although in South Africa our average date of first frost is too late to plant PAN 7M-97 for grain production). This hybrid has a high cob to stalk and leaf ratios which is an advantage as this results in good quality feed. It is recommended for the eastern regions and irrigation areas. The PANNAR hybrid range provides silage producers with a wide choice to meet all their silage needs.

Maize Silage Hybrid Recommendations

Medium Early		Medium		Medium Late		Late	Irrigation
East	West	East	West	East	West	East and West	East and West
PAN 6227	PAN 6734	PAN 6013B	PAN 6013B	PAN 6432B	PAN 6432B	PAN 7M-97	*PAN 3D-432B
		PAN 6611	PAN 6611	PAN 6777			PAN 6616
		PAN 6616	PAN 6Q-321B				*PAN 6126
		PAN 6723	PAN 6Q-521R				PAN 6013B
		PAN 6966	PAN 6146				*PAN 6236B
		PAN 6P-110	PAN 6966				*PAN 6238R
		PAN 6P-563R	PAN 6616				PAN 6966
		PAN 6Q-308B	PAN 6Q-308B				PAN 6777
		PAN 6Q-321B					
		PAN 6Q-521R					

* Ultra Early hybrids



Pannar Contact numbers:

Head Office
E mail: infoserve@pannar.co.za
Tel: (033) 413 9500
Website: www.pannar.com

Sales offices:
KwaZulu-Natal and Cape (Greytown)
Tel: (033) 413 9500
North West (Klerksdorp)
Tel: (018) 406 1700

Eastern Highveld and Limpopo (Delmas)
Tel: (013) 665 8500
Central Highveld (Heidelberg)
Tel: (016) 341 6404

Western Free State and Northern Cape (Kroonstad)
Tel: (056) 216 3000