



SEED GUIDE

2026-2027

10 HIGH-PERFORMING
KIWI-GROWN
MAIZE HYBRIDS

GRAIN AND
SILAGE OPTIONS

LET'S MAKE 2026-27 YOUR BEST MAIZE SEASON YET

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
VPMAXX® AT WORK: STORY ONE	2
VPMAXX® AT WORK: STORY TWO	4
WHY VPMAXX®	6
MAIZE HYBRIDS	8
HYBRID TRAITS	12

At VPMAXX®, we make maize growing easy with a select range of proven, high-performing hybrids – backed by genuine, good old-fashioned service.

Our experienced team of Barry, Alan, and now Paul Weeks (see page 7) are based across the North Island to provide region-specific advice and help you get the most from every hectare.

By working closely with farmers, we understand local challenges and opportunities, ensuring VPMAXX® hybrids deliver real results where they matter most – on your farm, season after season. With genetics this strong, it's no wonder VPMAXX® is the maize brand everyone's talking about.

Whether you're a returning grower or planting VPMAXX® for the first time, we look forward to working with you. You can find our full contact details on the back cover.





Ben McLennan and father, Bruce.

NO FEED GAPS, NO STRESS

For Tokoroa dairy farmer Ben McLennan, maize silage is a fundamental component of an efficient and resilient farming system.

"It is a crucial part of our operation" he says. "There are many variables when it comes to growing crops, but as long as we have something decent in the ground, we're confident in our feed supply".

The McLennans milk 3,500 predominantly Jersey cows across five farms totalling 1,000 ha, consistently achieving an average of 450 kgMS/cow. Maize silage has been integrated into their

system since 2008, following a land acquisition and strategic shift that enabled them to grow their own feed at scale.

This season, they planted approximately 110 ha of VPMAXX® maize across the five properties.

"We use a lot of VP399 around Tokoroa, and more VP600 around Tirau" Ben says. "We've also planted VP321 for the first time this season".

The McLennans have a firm grip on their farming operation, choosing to plant and harvest the maize crop themselves.

"We do test for metabolisable energy (ME) at harvest time, but

more for our own interest" Ben says. "We are getting good ME from VP399: up to around 11.5 MJ ME/kg DM".

Ben says they focus on the proper care of the substantial maize crop they grow.

"We are focused on minimising wastage, both on the farms with feedpads and those farms on which we feed in the paddock, and correct covering of the maize stacks", he says.

On average, one tonne of dry matter per cow is fed on the feedpads of the three larger farms throughout the season, while on the two winter milking farms, a "huge amount" of maize silage is fed in the paddock.

"We also feed silage throughout spring, dialling it back in the month before Christmas to take advantage of the period when good pasture is growing prolifically" Ben says.

Ben says that, for him, the main purpose of maize silage is to serve as a feed buffer.

"We feed maize silage on a sliding scale" he says. "It is a cheaper source of feed, particularly when we are locked in with the likes of PKE and protein. If the cows are running short of



VPMAXX® Account Manager Alan MacDougall and Ben McLennan.

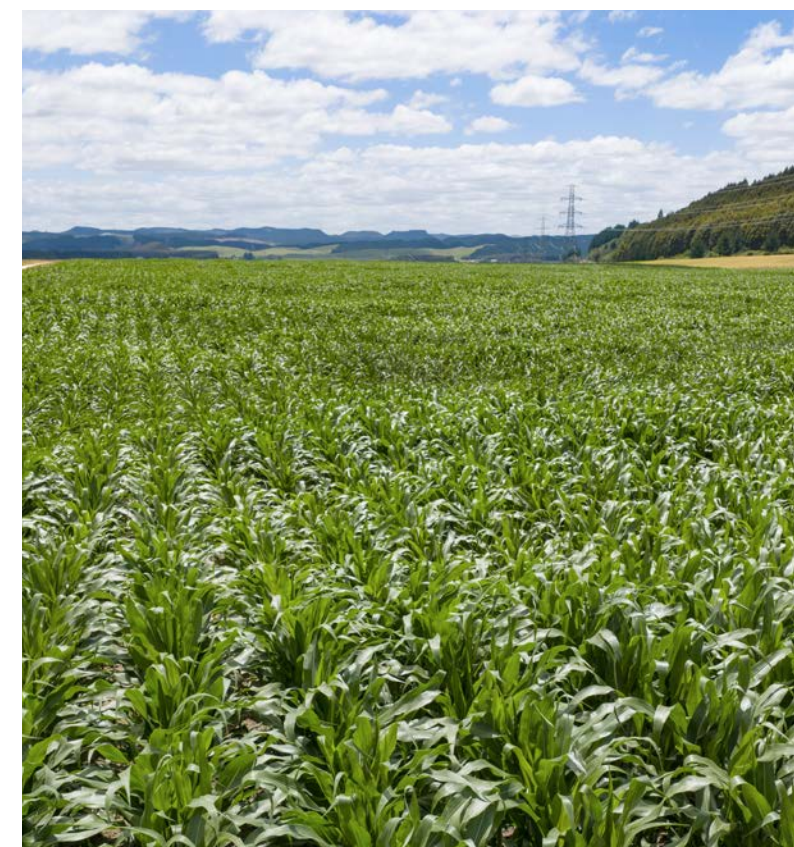
feed, as they were during the drought last season, we can ramp up the maize silage".

"Using maize silage is a system we've come to adopt; the cows are always in good nick".

Ben says the support he receives from VPMAXX® Account Manager Alan MacDougall is invaluable.

"Alan always answers his phone if we need him" he says. "We work well together".

"Using maize silage is a system we've come to adopt; the cows are always in good nick"



A SILAGE EXPERIMENT THAT PAID OFF

Left to right: Ellen Sands, Kevin Sands, James, Jack's fiancée Mikayla and Jack Sands.

An "experiment" with maize silage has reshaped how a Kaharoa-based dairy and beef operation runs – and today, it's something they wouldn't farm without.

"We really only started growing maize because bought-in feed had become too expensive" says Jack Sands, who farms alongside his parents Kevin and Lisa, sister Ellen, and his fiancée Mikayla. "Seven years ago, we planted 10 hectares as a bit of a trial, just to see if it would stack up".

It did.

The family runs 550 cows in a split-calving operation across

two properties totalling 284 hectares. Their system five dairy platform comprises a herd of 75 per cent pedigree Holstein Friesians and 25 per cent pedigree Ayrshires, producing around 400 kgMS per cow.

Alongside the dairy unit, the Sands family operates dry stock properties at Okere Falls (165 ha) and Taupō (230 ha). Around 450 calves are reared each year, and none are sold as bobbies.

"All of our dairy and beef bull calves are shifted onto the dry stock blocks after weaning and grown out to kill weight at about two years old" Jack explains.

The dairy heifers are kept at the dairy unit for most of their lives, with half sent to the dry stock property for mating to avoid overstocking the dairy platform.

Last year, a total of 23 ha of maize was planted in VPMAXX® hybrid VP321, 18 ha on the dairy unit, which provides 650 kgDM per cow of maize silage and 5 ha of maize at Okere, to supplement the 140 breeding beef cattle, a mix of pure Angus and pure Charolais.

Both properties sit at a higher altitude and the cooler conditions make hybrid choice and maturity crucial to ensure maize fits the Sands family's pasture-based system.

VPMAXX® Account Manager Barry Smallridge helps with hybrid



Barry Smallridge (left) talks maize with Jack Sands.



recommendations and general crop advice.

"We go with a short-season option so we can get re-grassing done in good time. It has to complement our pasture programme – timing is critical" says Jack.

All maize is harvested in-house by Jack with his CLAAS chopper, which he also uses for his contracting business, which services other local farms.

What started as an experiment has become an integral part of the Sands family's farming operation.

"Cow condition and production have improved as a result of feeding maize silage" says Jack. "It helps provide a more well-rounded diet for the cows".



"Cow condition and production have improved as a result of feeding maize silage"

SIX GREAT REASONS TO CHOOSE VP^{MAXX}®

1 A proven range that's easy to work with

We keep our hybrid lineup tight on purpose. Every hybrid has a clear job and a place in New Zealand farming systems. That means less time wading through options and greater confidence that the hybrids on offer are there because they perform.

2 Dual-purpose hybrids that give you options

Most of our hybrids are bred to work for both silage and grain. This gives you flexibility if plans change, seasons shift, or demand varies.

3 Industry-leading field support

Our people bring years of hands-on maize experience and work closely with growers right through the season – from paddock selection to harvest. You get practical advice, local knowledge and people with the time to support your crop properly.

VP^{MAXX}® was set up to do maize differently. Not bigger. Not louder. Just easier and more practical. Here's why VP^{MAXX}® makes sense.

4 Proven in New Zealand for over 10 years

We've been part of the NZ maize industry for more than a decade. Many of the growers who started with the brand early on are still using it today. That kind of loyalty only comes from hybrids that do what they're supposed to, year in and year out.

5 Local support across the North Island

With representation right across the North Island, VP^{MAXX}® growers have access to support when it matters – at planting, through the growing season and at harvest. You're dealing with people who are nearby, easy to contact and accountable.

6 Grown here, by New Zealand farmers

VP^{MAXX}® seed is grown in New Zealand-by-New Zealand farmers. That means genetics matched to local conditions and quality you can rely on. It also means backing the local maize industry, not just importing into it.



Introducing Paul Weeks

Paul Weeks, who is based in Manawātū, joined the VP^{MAXX} team in mid-January, taking up the role of Account Manager for Taranaki, Manawātū, Hawke's Bay and Wairarapa. With 40 years of agricultural experience behind him, Paul brings a depth of practical and technical knowledge to the role, having worked extensively across both farming and rural service sectors throughout the lower North Island.

Paul began his career shepherding before progressing to managing sheep and beef farms, a pathway that saw him spend 25 years on farm. He later transitioned into the rural service industry, building 15 years of industry experience including Technical Field Representative and Key Account Management roles in the Lower North Island.

In his role with VP^{MAXX}®, Paul will provide account management and technical support, drawing on a strong agronomic base and a results-driven mindset. "I'm all about offering solutions that add value" he says. "Understanding farmers' systems and tailoring solutions to suit them is key". Having worked on both sides of the fence, Paul understands what good looks like, and what farmers expect: insights that position him well to help clients lift performance and profitability.



VPMAXX[®] MAIZE HYBRIDS

THREE EXCITING NEW HYBRIDS THIS SEASON

We make growing maize easy with a selection of dual-purpose hybrids well adapted to New Zealand growing conditions. This year, we've added three new hybrids to the lineup: VP321, VP466, and VP490, which deliver a new level of hybrid performance in these maturity groups.

VP321

82 CRM

High-yielding dual-purpose hybrid with great ear flex, very good drought tolerance and Northern Leaf Blight resistance for late-season staygreen. Has low ear placement and dependable standability. Widely adapted for all growing regions.



VP466

96 CRM



Moderately tall hybrid delivers high grain and silage yields. Strong roots and stalks, plus low ear placement result in dependable standability. Emerges well with strong early growth and excellent drought tolerance.

VP490

99 CRM

Great-looking dual-purpose hybrid with excellent all-round agronomics and reliable yields. Emerges well with strong early growth. Delivers excellent drought tolerance, good late-season foliar health and long-lasting staygreen.



NEW

VP321

82 CRM

RECOMMENDED
ESTABLISHED POPULATION
(plants/ha)

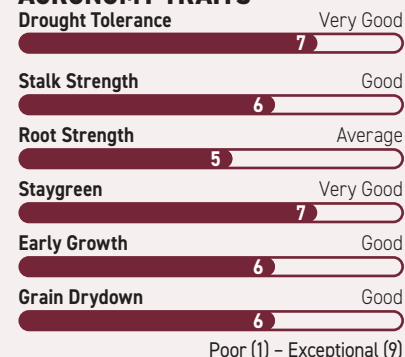
GRAIN 90-110K
SILAGE 100-115K

A very short maturity
for upper North Island

120-132 DAYS
(for silage)
Estimated from planting to harvest



AGRONOMY TRAITS

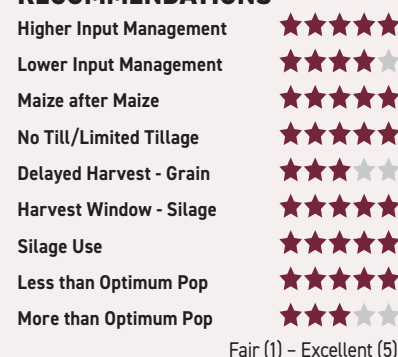


A short maturity for
lower North Island

130-146 DAYS
(for silage)
Estimated from planting to harvest



RECOMMENDATIONS



NEW

VP466

96 CRM

RECOMMENDED
ESTABLISHED POPULATION
(plants/ha)

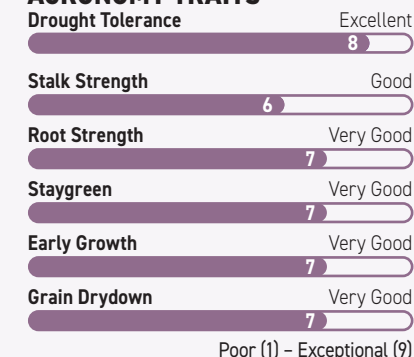
GRAIN 85-105K
SILAGE 95-115K

A short maturity for
upper North Island

130-145 DAYS
(for silage)
Estimated from planting to harvest



AGRONOMY TRAITS



A mid-full maturity for
lower North Island

140-154 DAYS
(for silage)
Estimated from planting to harvest



RECOMMENDATIONS



VPMAXX[®]

VP383

87 CRM

RECOMMENDED
ESTABLISHED POPULATION
(plants/ha)

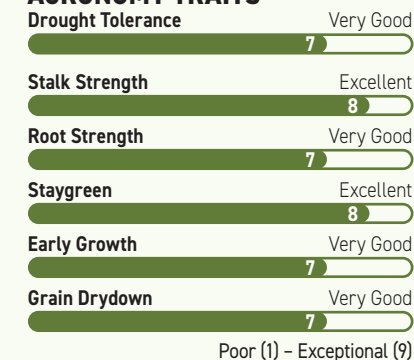
GRAIN 85-105K
SILAGE 95-115K

A very short maturity
for upper North Island

124-137 DAYS
(for silage)
Estimated from planting to harvest



AGRONOMY TRAITS



A short-mid maturity for
lower North Island

134-148 DAYS
(for silage)
Estimated from planting to harvest



RECOMMENDATIONS



VP399

89 CRM

RECOMMENDED
ESTABLISHED POPULATION
(plants/ha)

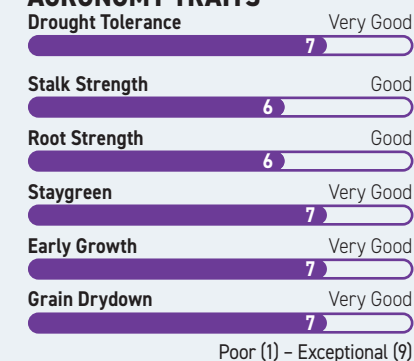
GRAIN 85-105K
SILAGE 95-115K

A very short maturity
for upper North Island

126-140 DAYS
(for silage)
Estimated from planting to harvest



AGRONOMY TRAITS

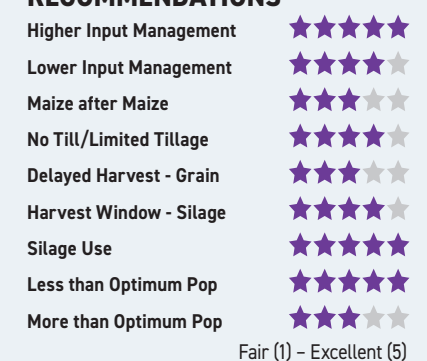


A mid maturity for
lower North Island

136-150 DAYS
(for silage)
Estimated from planting to harvest



RECOMMENDATIONS



NEW

VP490

99 CRM

RECOMMENDED
ESTABLISHED POPULATION
(plants/ha)

GRAIN 85-105K

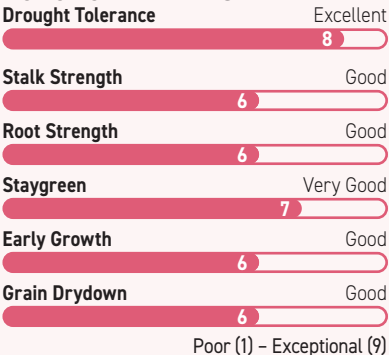
SILAGE 95-115K

A short maturity for
upper North Island

134-152 DAYS
(for silage)
Estimated from planting to harvest



AGRONOMY TRAITS



A mid-full maturity for
lower North Island

146-162 DAYS
(for silage)
Estimated from planting to harvest



RECOMMENDATIONS



VP522

102 CRM

RECOMMENDED
ESTABLISHED POPULATION
(plants/ha)

GRAIN 80-100K

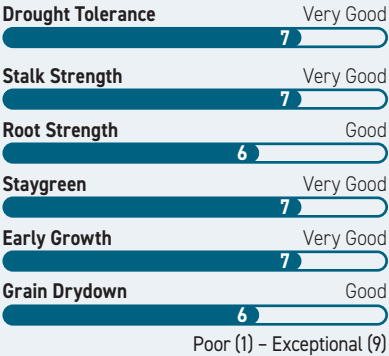
SILAGE 95-110K

A mid maturity for
upper North Island

136-150 DAYS
(for silage)
Estimated from planting to harvest



AGRONOMY TRAITS



A full maturity for
lower North Island

148-160 DAYS
(for silage)
Estimated from planting to harvest



RECOMMENDATIONS



VP574

107 CRM

RECOMMENDED
ESTABLISHED POPULATION
(plants/ha)

GRAIN 80-100K

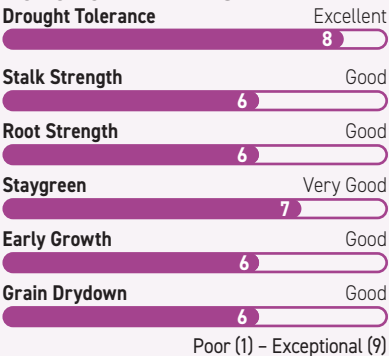
SILAGE 90-110K

A full maturity for
upper North Island

140-156 DAYS
(for silage)
Estimated from planting to harvest



AGRONOMY TRAITS



Not recommended
for lower North Island



RECOMMENDATIONS



VP600

110 CRM

RECOMMENDED
ESTABLISHED POPULATION
(plants/ha)

GRAIN 80-95K

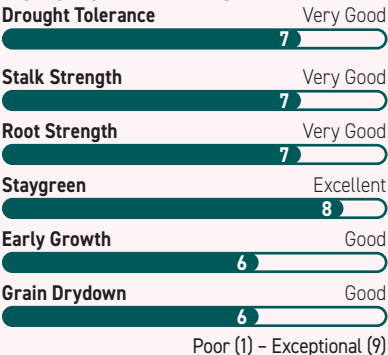
SILAGE 80-105K

A full maturity for
upper North Island

143-159 DAYS
(for silage)
Estimated from planting to harvest



AGRONOMY TRAITS



Not recommended
for lower North Island



RECOMMENDATIONS



VP611

111 CRM

RECOMMENDED
ESTABLISHED POPULATION
(plants/ha)

GRAIN 80-95K

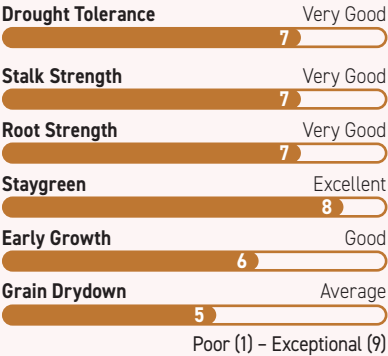
SILAGE 80-105K

A full maturity for
upper North Island

144-160 DAYS
(for silage)
Estimated from planting to harvest



AGRONOMY TRAITS



Not recommended
for lower North Island



RECOMMENDATIONS



VP647

114 CRM

RECOMMENDED
ESTABLISHED POPULATION
(plants/ha)

GRAIN not rec

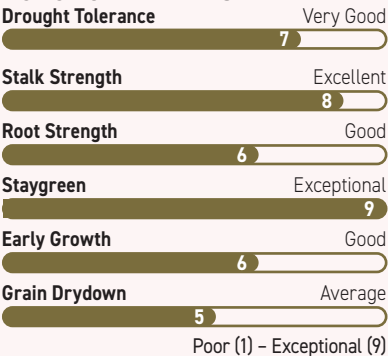
SILAGE 85-100K

The longest maturity
for upper North Island

150-165 DAYS
(for silage)
Estimated from planting to harvest



AGRONOMY TRAITS



Not recommended
for lower North Island



RECOMMENDATIONS



	NEW			NEW		NEW				
	VP321 82 CRM	VP383 87 CRM	VP399 89 CRM	VP466 96 CRM	VP490 99 CRM	VP522 102 CRM	VP574 107 CRM	VP600 110 CRM	VP611 111 CRM	VP647 114 CRM
Days to Silage Maturity										
Upper North Island	120 - 132	124 - 137	126 - 140	130 - 145	134 - 152	136 - 150	140 - 156	143 - 159	144 - 160	150-165
Lower North Island	130 - 146	134 - 148	136 - 150	140 - 154	146 - 162	148 - 160	-	-	-	-
Disease Ratings										
Northern Leaf Blight	Very Good	Good	Average	Average	Very Good	Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Common Rust	Good	Very Good	Good	Good	Very Good	Average	Very Good	Very Good	Good	Very Good
Head Smut	Very Good	Good	Very Good	Good	DP	Very Good	Average	DP	Average	Marginal
Fusarium Ear Rot	DP	Average	Average	DP	Good	Below Average	Good	Very Good	Good	Average
Diplodia Ear Rot	DP	Good	Good	DP	DP	Average	DP	Very Good	Good	Average
Gibberella Ear Rot	Good	Excellent	Average	Average	Good	Good	Average	Very Good	Average	Average
Anthracnose Stalk Rot	DP	Good	DP	DP	DP	Average	Average	DP	DP	Average
Characteristics										
Plant Height	Tall	Tall	Massive	Tall	Medium	Very Tall	Medium	Tall	Massive	Massive
Ear Height	Average	Average	Medium	Medium	Average	Medium	Average	Medium	Medium	Average
Flex	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Good	Good	Very Good	Good	Excellent	Very Good	Very Good
Husk Cover	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Protective	Average	Good	Very Good	Very Good	Average
Test Weight	Very Good	Very Good	Good	Average	Good	Good	Average	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Grain Appearance	Very Good	Very Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very Good	Average
Flowering for Maturity	Average	Average	Good	Average	Late	Average	Good	Good	Good	Good
Black Layer for Maturity	Average	Average	Average	Average	Late	Average	Average	Average	Good	Average

VPMAXX® Trait Table

Agronomic Traits	Plant Height	Ear Height	Husk Cover
Exceptional	Massive	Lofty	Long & Tight
Excellent	Very Tall	Very High	Long
Very Good	Tall	High	Protective
Good	Medium	Medium	Medium
Average	Average	Average	Average
Below Average	Below Average	Below Average	Below Average
Fair	Short	Low	Fair
Marginal	Squat	Very Low	Short
Poor	Dumpy	Squat	Poor
Data Pending			

Management Recommendations (star rating)

Excellent	★★★★★
Very Good	★★★★☆
Good	★★★☆☆
Average	★★★☆☆
Fair	★★★☆☆
NR	Not Recommended
DP	Data Pending

Hybrid Recommendations

VPMAXX® maize seed is provided subject to the terms and conditions of purchasing, which are part of the labelling and purchase documents. ®, ™, SM, Trademarks and service marks of Corteva. The information in this publication is general in nature only. Although the information in this publication is believed to be accurate, no liability (whether as a result of negligence or otherwise) is accepted for any loss of any kind that may arise from actions based on the contents of this publication. ©2026, NZ Seed Houses Ltd. No part of this publication can be reproduced without prior written consent from NZ Seed Houses Ltd. The farm results achieved by testimonial farmers are illustrative only of the potential for gains when using VPMAXX® products. All testimonial figures have been provided and approved by testimonial farmer.



Alan MacDougall
Northland and
Waikato
027 204 4418
amacdougall@nzsh.co.nz



Barry Smallridge
Bay of Plenty and
East Coast
027 801 9992
bsmallridge@nzsh.co.nz



Paul Weeks
Taranaki, Manawatū,
Hawke's Bay and Wairarapa
027 293 8833
pweeks@nzsh.co.nz

TALK TO YOUR VPMAXX® ACCOUNT MANAGER TODAY

www.vpmaxx.nz

