PIONEER

A YATES FAMILY BUSINESS

MAIZE for Silage

2025-2026

We haven't looked back

Maize silage key to Giliam family's high-producing operation

+ Inoculate to get more mileage from silage

Five exciting summer forage options

50 CELEBRATING 50 YEARS IN AUSTRALIA 1975 - 2025

PIONEER® BRAND · SEEDS

It is a pleasure to share with you the Pioneer Maize for Silage Catalogue for 2025-26, which contains details of our latest maize and forage hybrids, as well as our silage inoculant product line-up. It also includes technical articles on the value of maize silage in dairy farm systems and outlines the breeding and research effort behind every bag of Pioneer seed planted in Australia. We are grateful to the Giliam, Vinnicombe and Taylor families who have allowed us to showcase their successful dairy farm businesses.

We are pleased to introduce four new hybrids to our line-up this season. P13063 IT, P15744 IT and P17822 IT have raised the bar for silage yield performance, while P07003 is a game-changing BMR maize hybrid that has the potential to boost per-cow production in high-producing dairies. See page 16 for more details.

This year we celebrate 50 years since the establishment of the Pioneer Hi-Bred Seed Company in Australia. The company's humble beginnings were in Kingaroy, Queensland, with a handful of staff. Today our field team is spread across all the major cropping and dairy districts in Australia.

We have recently appointed Greg Morris and Leighton Hart (see page 9) as Dairy Specialists, based in the Gippsland and Western Districts regions of Victoria, respectively. Whether you are considering maize silage, an existing user, or a nutritionist working in the dairy industry, please contact Greg or Leighton for the latest tips on maximising maize silage yield, quality and milk response.

The Pioneer team joins me in wishing you all the very best for the 2025-26 season. As always, we appreciate your support for Pioneer® brand seeds and are committed to helping you extract the maximum value from them. If we can help you in any way, please give us a call.

With warmest regards,

Ben Vercoe
Pioneer® Seeds Summer Crop Portfolio Manager

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MAIZE FOR SILAGE 2025-2026

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SAME CROP, DIFFERENT NAME

Maize silage is also known as corn silage in some regions of Australia. Both terms refer to silage made from the plant species *Zea mays* and can be used interchangeably.

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.

A handful of reasons

FOR ADDING MAIZE SILAGE TO YOUR SYSTEM

Whether you run a low input pasture-based dairy system, an intensive total mixed ration (TMR) dairy farm system or something in between, Pioneer® brand maize silage can help you boost milk production, maximise pasture yield and quality, enhance animal health, improve environmental sustainability and help maximise farm profitability.

1 Control your feed costs

On most Australian dairy farms, the costs associated with feed represent at least half of all expenses associated with producing milk. Feed costs can be even higher for those milking cows in intensive total mixed ration (TMR) systems[1]. Maize is a high-yielding crop which, depending on your growing region, can produce yields of up to 30 tonnes of drymatter per hectare (tDM/ha) when moisture and nutrients are not limited and over 12 tDM/ha under dryland conditions. The high drymatter yields mean most dairy farmers can grow a crop of maize silage for 25-30 c/kgDM in the stack, with some growing it for less. This makes maize silage more cost-effective than many other bought-in and homegrown forage options.

2. Grow and harvest more quality pasture

There is a strong relationship between the amount of pasture harvested and dairy farm profitability[2]. Research has shown that the potential for annual pasture yield was 12 tDM/ha on dryland and over 20 tDM/ha under irrigation, yet the average amount of pasture converted to milk is just 6-7 tDM/ha per year[3]. Keeping ryegrass in its most productive phase is key to maximising pasture growth[4].

Maize silage feeding rates can be manipulated to help prevent under- and over-grazing, keeping ryegrass in the most active 2 ½ to 3 leaf growth stage. Researchers have measured a reduction of 25% in the rate of regrowth when the residual pasture cover was less than 1,300 to 1,500 kgDM/ha[3].

3. Get more from every drop of water

Maize is a C4 plant. This means it has a different leaf anatomy to C3 (temperate) grasses like ryegrass, and it can exchange carbon dioxide without losing as much water vapour. This results in higher growth rates, especially at high temperatures and light levels. Trials have shown that maize silage yielded 5 tDM per megalitre of water. This was five times greater than the average response of perennial pastures in the irrigated regions of Northern Victoria[1].

4. Establish new, higher-yielding pastures

Research has shown that the highest yielding paddocks on a dairy farm will produce twice as much drymatter as the lowest yielding ones[5]. Growing a maize silage crop can provide many benefits to pasture renovation programs. It gives farmers the ability to work surface soils, break compaction layers, reduce weeds and inferior grasses and decrease insect pressure.

5. Provide a consistent, high-quality forage

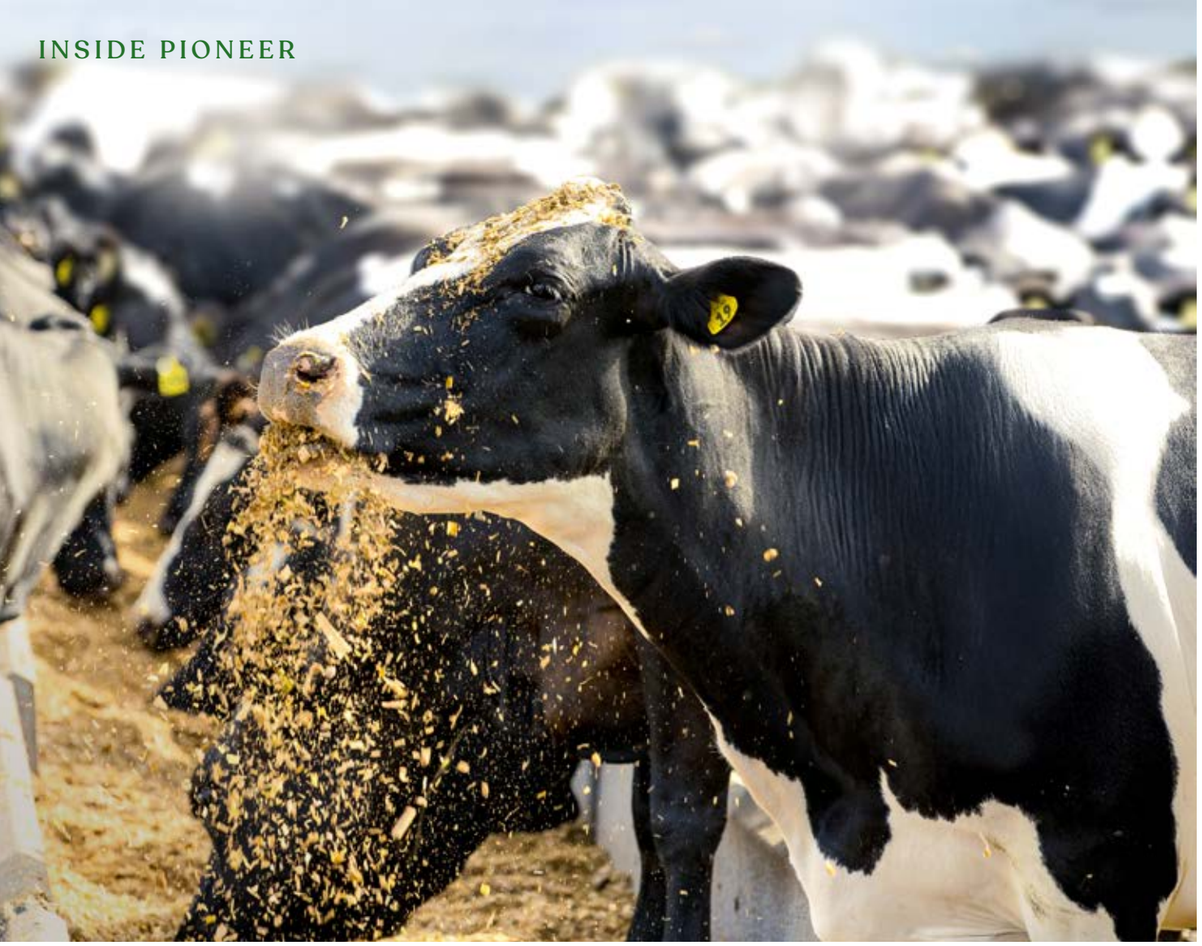
Maize silage is made from the entire plant, so it delivers a unique blend of high-energy grain (starch) combined with quality fibre from the stem and leaves.

Typically harvested at 30-38% whole plant drymatter and chopped to a theoretical chop length of 12-19 mm, maize silage is easy to mix and provides the ideal forage base for partial mixed rations (PMR) as well as total mixed rations (TMR).

The energy content of maize silage is typically higher and more consistent than other dairy farm forage options (Table 1). Maize silage also has a lower neutral detergent fibre (NDF) than most other harvested forages.

Feed	Number of samples	Metabolisable energy (MJME/kgDM)	Crude protein (%)	Neutral detergent fibre (NDF) (%)
Maize silage	41	10.6	8.4	45.1
Grass silage	311	10.2	13.3	53.6
Sorghum silage	28	8.9	9.3	57.7
Cereal hay	123	8.9	7.3	55.2
Pasture hay	368	8.7	8.5	59.2
Vetch hay	924	9.8	19.5	41.5

Table 1: Quality measurements of selected silages and hays in the 2023-24 season[6].



6. Reduce the incidence of milk fever

Milk fever, also known as hypocalcemia, is a metabolic disorder that occurs when dairy cows have low blood calcium levels. It usually happens within the first 24 hours after calving but can occur up to two to three days later. Milk fever lowers milk production, and it can also increase the risk of other health issues, including ketosis and metritis.

To minimise the risk of milk fever, cows in the last four weeks before calving need to have a diet with a dietary cation-anion difference (DCAD) of around minus 50 milliequivalents per kgDM and relatively low levels of calcium. Potassium and sodium push the DCAD value up, whereas chloride and sulphur push the DCAD value down. For this reason, a low DCAD diet generally includes no or low levels of pasture.

Maize silage is an ideal option for transition cows because it has low potassium, sodium and calcium levels. It also serves as an excellent carrier for anionic salts, which can be fed to help reduce DCAD.

To find out more about the benefits of growing and feeding maize silage, download our latest technical brochure or talk to your local Pioneer representative.

[1] DairyUp, 2024. Project Update: P4 Feedbase – maize for silage March 2024.
[2] Beca, D. 2020. Key Determinants of Profit for Pasture-Based Dairy Farms. Australasian Agribusiness Perspectives 23 Paper 16 pp 247-274.
[3] Garcia, 2023. The hidden losses of pasture utilisation. The Australian Farmer December 2024 p188-190
[4] https://www.evergraze.com.au/library-content/evergraze-exchange-online-the-nuts-and-bolts-of-grazing-management/index.html
[5] Future Dairy, 2015. Delving into the differences in paddock performance. https://futuredairy.com.au/delving-into-the-differences-in-paddock-performance/
[6] For further information including ranges see Feed Test https://feedtest.com.au/index.php/about/feedtest-information

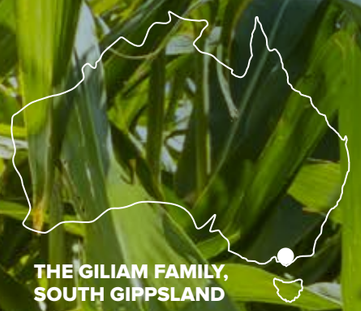
Introducing Greg and Leighton

Pioneer Dairy Specialists Greg Morris and Leighton Hart are passionate about helping dairy farmers use maize silage to maximise their productivity and profitability.

Greg joins the team as the Dairy Specialist for Gippsland and Tasmania. He brings extensive dairy sector experience to the role having spent the last 18 years in various farm management and technical roles at Gippsland's Ellinbank Research Farm.

Leighton Hart has also joined the team as the Dairy Specialist for South-West Victoria and South-East South Australia. Leighton's comprehensive knowledge of the feed and dairy industries and his passion for building profitable dairy systems will bring a range of benefits to growers in the region.

Contact Greg or Leighton for an obligation-free visit (see back page for their contact details).



Maize silage *secures feed supply*

Maize silage is helping South Gippsland farmers Jan and Annie Giliam feed their cows well every season. The couple, along with their son George and his wife Jaimee, milk a high-producing three-way cross herd near Dumbalk in South Gippsland.

In the 2024-25 season, the family milked 550 cows on 240 ha of non-irrigated milking area plus 80 ha of turnout blocks, producing 600 kgMS/cow. In May 2025, they bought an adjacent 160 ha block and are now milking 800 cows on 400 ha.

Jan and Annie purchased the first part of the farm when they arrived in Australia from the Netherlands 35 years ago and have slowly expanded their business through the acquisition of adjoining land.

“We started off milking 100 cows on 160 acres” says Jan. “It seems unbelievable now that you could make a living off a farm that small”.

Jan first started growing maize for silage in 2000, encouraged by the late Chuck Walker, a local contractor and early promoter of the crop.

“Chuck was really enthusiastic about maize, and he helped us get started” says Jan.

“We grew maize for about a decade but eventually stopped because we purchased more grazing land and we didn’t really need the extra feed”.

“We started again three seasons ago and haven’t looked back” says Jan. “Now we wouldn’t farm without maize silage because we can feed the cows, so they milk well regardless of whether the grass grows”.

“Growing maize silage is a whole new ball game now because there are quick hybrids and there have been really big improvements in the machinery used to plant and harvest the crops”.

Typically, the farm’s maize silage crops yield around 20-22 tDM/ha, and the final cost is around $200/tDM in the stack. In the 2024-25 season Jan planted 40 ha of Pioneer® brand P92575 which produced 14 tDM/ha.

“It was a good result given the fact that the paddocks are not irrigated and it was an extremely dry finish to the season” says Jan. “This season’s maize silage cost around $270/tDM, which is cheap relative to the price of bought-in feed”.

When it comes to maize hybrids, Jan is looking for a quick maturity option that can be planted later when the paddocks have dried out and yet still be harvested in March.

“We want a hybrid that delivers a high drymatter yield of high starch maize silage”.

Farm walk

- In the 2024-25 season, milked 550 cows on 240 ha of non-irrigated milking area plus 80 ha of turnout blocks
- Produced 600 kgMS/cow
- Planted 40 ha of Pioneer® brand P92575
- Maize silage inoculated with Pioneer® brand 11CFT

All the maize silage is inoculated with Pioneer® brand 11CFT, a revolutionary inoculant which reduces heating and improves fibre digestibility.

After maize silage harvest, the paddocks are planted into annual ryegrass, which is grazed by the milking herd over the winter months.

“Sometimes we get a cut of grass silage in October or early November before re-establishing maize, but it all depends on the season”.

Maize silage is normally fed as part of a partial mixed ration (PMR) to the springers from mid-May, and it is kept in the ration of the milkers through untill October or November when the spring pasture flush is normally underway.

“At the moment we are feeding a mix of maize silage, grass silage, vetch hay, wheat hay and straw as well as a protein pellet on the feedpad” says Jan. “Cows are also fed a 14-16% protein pellet in the shed”.

When it comes to infrastructure, the farm is exceptionally well set up with top-quality silage bunkers, an undercover feedpad and calf shed, and a 60-bale Delaval Rotary E100™ shed, all of which have been built by Jan and George in the last decade.

Jan believes a key to achieving high production in a grass-based system is having a condensed calving.

> “Now we wouldn’t farm without maize silage because we can feed the cows, so they milk well regardless of whether the grass grows”

“Feeding the cows properly in early lactation is important to minimise the time it takes for them to start cycling. Our empty rate has dropped to 10-11% which is a good result given we only do 10-11 weeks of artificial insemination (AI) using sexed semen with no follow-up bulls”.

“We have found that a mix of maize silage and grass silage is nutritionally much better for the cows than feeding grass silage alone”.

Cow breeding and probiotics have also played an important part in improving fertility.

The farm’s original Canadian and Dutch Holstein herd were mated to VikingRed. Their daughters were joined to Montbéliard (a French dual-purpose breed), and, in turn, their offspring were joined to Scandinavian Holstein.

“The resultant three-way cross is a stronger, longer-lasting cow which is easier to calve, has fewer health issues and is easier to get in calf”.

When it comes to managing the farm, it’s “all hands on deck” when needed. George mainly focuses on cow management; Annie and Jaimee raise the calves, while managing the pastures is a major focus for Jan.

“We are looking for grass cultivars that have better persistence under our dryland conditions” says Jan. “So far, it seems like the diploids are doing a better job for us”.

While Jan would like to increase per-cow production over time, he remains closely focused on margins.

“The breakeven point for per cow production varies every season depending on the milk price, the bought-in feed price and how much feed we can grow at home” says Jan. “Maize silage plays an important role in providing cost-effective stored feed and we plan to plant an increased area in the coming season”.

ABOVE LEFT George Giliam and Pioneer Territory Sales Manager Adam Archibald.
ABOVE Jan and Pioneer Dairy Specialist Greg Morris.

Maize hybrids

We are pleased to offer growers a powerful portfolio of high-yielding, top-quality silage hybrids selected to meet the needs of local livestock farmers.

Our industry-leading hybrids are the result of Pioneer's world-class germplasm library, advanced conventional breeding technologies and extensive global and local product testing and advancement programmes.

Each year, Pioneer's elite genetics are tested in our industry-leading Australian Seed Technology Research In Key Environments (STRIKE) trialling programme, allowing us to identify superior hybrids and to position them in the growing environments where they will perform the best.

Whether you're farming in the Atherton Tablelands or Tasmania, from Western Australia to the Hunter Valley 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.

With a knowledgeable and experienced team located throughout Australia, you can be assured of accessing the best local advice to help you maximise your investment in Pioneer® brand hybrid seed. Get in touch with your local Territory Sales Manager or Farm Services Consultant today.

What's in a name?

Pioneer's hybrid naming system is designed to help growers instantly recognise the base genetics, comparative relative maturity (CRM) and added traits of a maize hybrid.

All Pioneer brand maize hybrid names begin with the letter P, indicating a Pioneer brand hybrid, followed by four or five numbers. The first two numbers identify the approximate CRM of the hybrid. For products over 100 CRM, only the last two digits are used; thus, P17822 IT has a CRM of 117.

The remaining two or three numbers (e.g. the "822" in P17822 IT) are specific numbers that help identify each unique hybrid.

Where relevant, letters following the numbers indicate exactly what special traits are contained in the hybrid. For example, in Australia, we have Imidazolinone Tolerant "IT", white "W" and brown mid rib "BMR" maize hybrids in the silage line-up.

Pioneer
Recognised as a Pioneer brand product

Hybrid Specific Number
001 – 999

P 17 822 IT

CRM
Comparative Relative Maturity

Trait Identifier
Trait specific suffix

The cream of the crop from Pioneer

They're here. Four exciting new hybrids offering strong yield potential and excellent agronomics and/or high silage quality for consistent high-level performance. This season's new maize offerings build on one of the company's strongest maize hybrid portfolios ever. With maturities ranging from 107 to 117 CRM, our new release offers something for discerning growers from the warmer parts of Victoria to Queensland.

PIONEER BRAND · SEEDS
P07003
CRM 107

SOLID BMR HYBRID WITH UNMATCHED DIGESTIBILITY

see page 20

PIONEER BRAND · SEEDS
P13063 IT
CRM 113

NEWEST GENETICS PACKED WITH YIELD, AGRONOMICS AND HERBICIDE TOLERANCE

see page 21

PIONEER BRAND · SEEDS
P15744 IT
CRM 115

COMPACT HYBRID WITH TOP-END YIELD POTENTIAL

see page 21

PIONEER BRAND · SEEDS
P17822 IT
CRM 117

HIGH-YIELDING FULL-MATURITY HEAVYWEIGHT

see page 22

Australia's first Pioneer BMR hybrid

If you are running a high-producing dairy herd and you are after more milk per tonne of maize silage fed, Pioneer brown mid-rib (BMR) maize silage could be the answer for you.

Normal stalk (left), BMR stalk (right).

Brown mid rib is a naturally occurring mutation in maize which results in silage with greater fibre digestibility and higher cell wall fragility due to less lignin. This results in increased feed intakes among high-producing cows. It's high-quality silage for better cow performance.

Pioneer® brand P07003 is the first Pioneer BMR hybrid commercially available in Australia. If you have high-producing cows (> 35 litres per cow), feed large amounts of maize silage in early lactation and can store your BMR maize silage separately, consider:

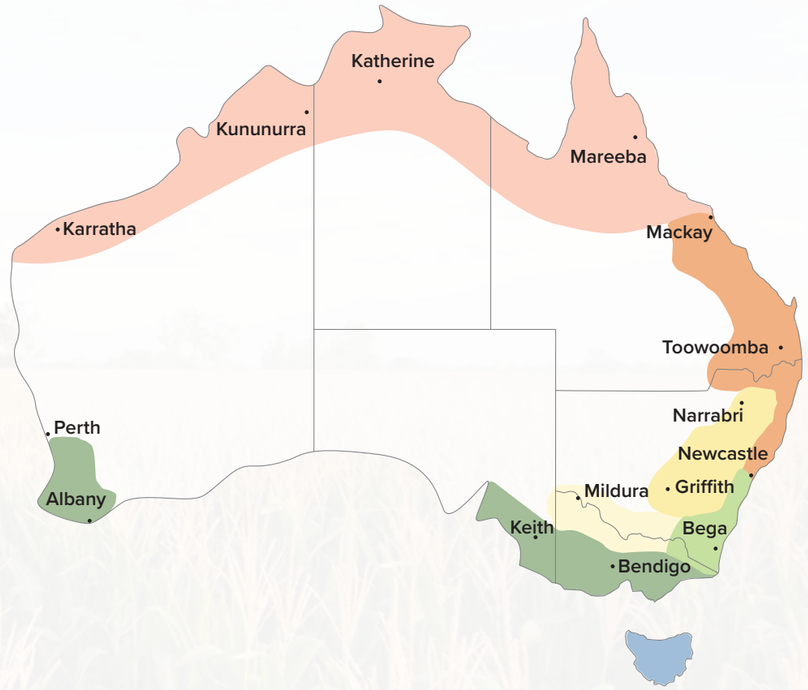
- Planting 20-30% of your silage area in P07003
- Feeding it to transition cows 3-4 weeks pre-calving
- Feeding BMR for 4-5 weeks in early lactation, then switching to conventional maize silage.

To establish if P07003 is the right option for your farm, contact your local Pioneer sales representative or talk to one of our Dairy Specialists.

Choosing the right Pioneer hybrid for your farm

Maize hybrids mature according to heat unit accumulation, with high CRM hybrids requiring more heat to reach silage harvest maturity than low CRM hybrids. The maize growing region map is a simple tool to help growers quickly select those hybrids that are most suited to their growing regions.

For further advice on the best Pioneer hybrid for your paddock, talk to your local Pioneer representative, agronomist or reseller.



Region 1	Northern Australia including, North QLD, Northern Territory and Northern WA
Region 2	Central QLD, Wide Bay & Burnett, Darling Downs, Western Downs, Border Rivers, South-East QLD and North Coast NSW
Region 3	Northern NSW, Liverpool Plains, Central West NSW, Riverina
Region 4	Northern VIC and Southern NSW
Region 5	Hunter Valley, Sydney Basin, Central and South Coast NSW
Region 6	Gippsland, Western Districts of VIC, South-East South Australia, Southern WA
Region 7	Tasmania

Scan for more information regarding Pioneer maize hybrids

P7524

CRM 75

SILAGE YIELD	8
GRAIN YIELD	7
STAYGREEN	7
PLANT HEIGHT	8
DRYLAND ADAPTABILITY	7
COB ROT RESISTANCE	7
NORTHERN LEAF BLIGHT	4
WHOLE PLANT DIGESTIBILITY	8

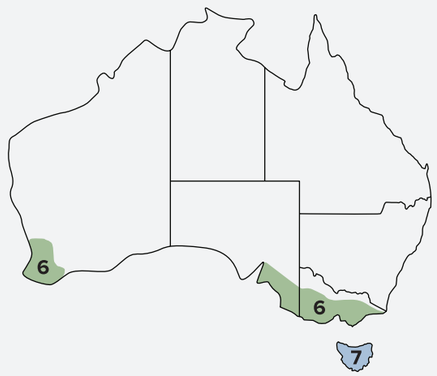
Poor (1) - Excellent (9)

Stands and delivers tonnes of high-energy feed.

Quickest option on the market with flexibility for silage and grain.

- Very tall plant with dependable root and stalk strength
- High levels of staygreen and toughness in drought conditions
- Delivers impressive yields of quality silage in the coolest maize growing regions

An important earlier companion hybrid to **P8500** for growers seeking a quicker option for a shorter season, without the compromise on yield.



Recommended for me

P8500

CRM 85

SILAGE YIELD	9
GRAIN YIELD	7
STAYGREEN	7
PLANT HEIGHT	8
DRYLAND ADAPTABILITY	8
COB ROT RESISTANCE	8
NORTHERN LEAF BLIGHT	5
WHOLE PLANT DIGESTIBILITY	7

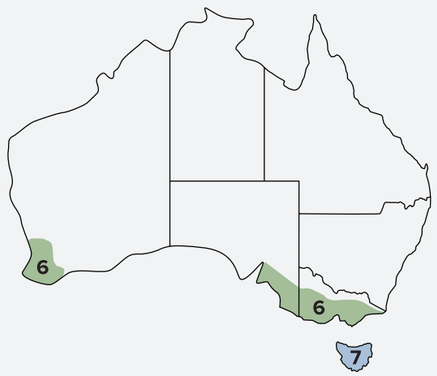
Poor (1) - Excellent (9)

Yield leader with looks to match.

Impressive silage yield with a good all-round agronomic package.

- Tall hybrid and an industry leader for silage yield in its maturity
- Solid drought tolerance providing flexibility in double cropping programs
- Excellent feed quality combines with high silage yields, maximising energy when fed out

Very popular hybrid through Gippsland, Western Districts and Tasmania with a perfect maturity fit and yields to match.



Recommended for me

P92575

CRM 92

SILAGE YIELD	9
GRAIN YIELD	9
STAYGREEN	9
PLANT HEIGHT	8
DRYLAND ADAPTABILITY	8
COB ROT RESISTANCE	8
NORTHERN LEAF BLIGHT	8
WHOLE PLANT DIGESTIBILITY	7

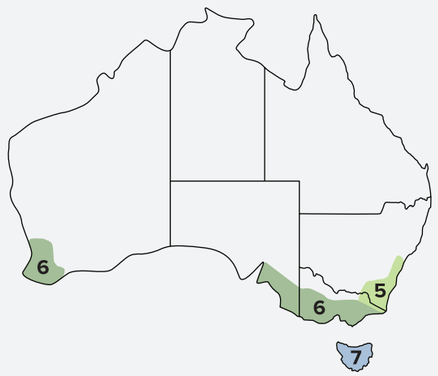
Poor (1) - Excellent (9)

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

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

- Competitive silage yields compared to **P9127**, which it replaces
- Moderately tall with strong agronomics, superior root and stalk strength
- Combines excellent drought tolerance, staygreen, Northern Leaf Blight and Rust resistances to deliver high and stable silage yields
- Late season staygreen and plant health delivers a wide harvest window and silage with exceptional digestibility and energy

First choice in southern Victoria where plant health and yield are a priority.



Recommended for me

P9978

CRM 99

SILAGE YIELD	9
GRAIN YIELD	9
STAYGREEN	9
PLANT HEIGHT	8
DRYLAND ADAPTABILITY	8
COB ROT RESISTANCE	8
NORTHERN LEAF BLIGHT	7
WHOLE PLANT DIGESTIBILITY	7

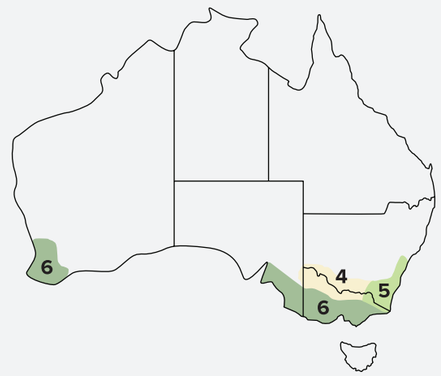
Poor (1) - Excellent (9)

Very productive. Very stable. Very defensive.

P9978 sets the new standard for sub-100 CRM performance in silage yield.

- A moderately tall plant with low ear placement, strong roots strength, superior drought tolerance, staygreen and Northern Leaf Blight resistance
- Delivers exceptional silage yields, in this maturity, with excellent feed quality
- Key maturity for maximising silage yield across a broad range of environments

All growers will reap the rewards of excellent defensive traits, standability and reliability of yield across seasons. Replaces **P9911** in the hybrid line-up.



Recommended for me

IMPORTANT NOTE: Hybrid comparisons 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 page 52. Contact your local Pioneer Territory Sales Manager or Farm Services Consultant for further advice.

See pages 50–51 for hybrid options for your region.

NEW

PIONEER BRAND · SEEDS

P07003

CRM 107

SILAGE YIELD	7
GRAIN YIELD	N/A
STAYGREEN	8
PLANT HEIGHT	8
DRYLAND ADAPTABILITY	N/A
COB ROT RESISTANCE	N/A
NORTHERN LEAF BLIGHT	6
WHOLE PLANT DIGESTIBILITY	9

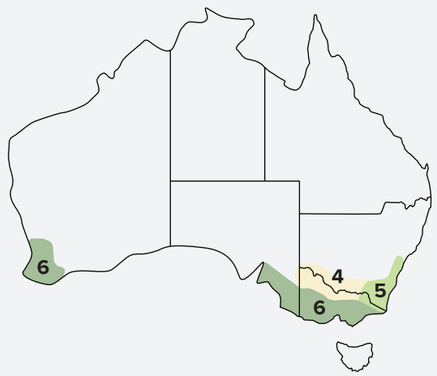
Poor (1) - Excellent (9)

Solid BMR hybrid with unmatched silage quality.

BMR trait increases digestibility with lower lignin to match well-rounded agronomics.

- Great option for high producing dairies with the ability to feed during peak energy requirements
- Produces silage with superior digestibility and energy content
- Sound standability with solid root and stalk strength
- Consider planting **P0937** if cool wet conditions are present around sowing

Plant with **P9978**, and **P0937** depending on maturity requirements.



Recommended for me

PIONEER BRAND · SEEDS

P0937

CRM 109

SILAGE YIELD	8
GRAIN YIELD	9
STAYGREEN	7
PLANT HEIGHT	8
DRYLAND ADAPTABILITY	7
COB ROT RESISTANCE	8
NORTHERN LEAF BLIGHT	7
WHOLE PLANT DIGESTIBILITY	8

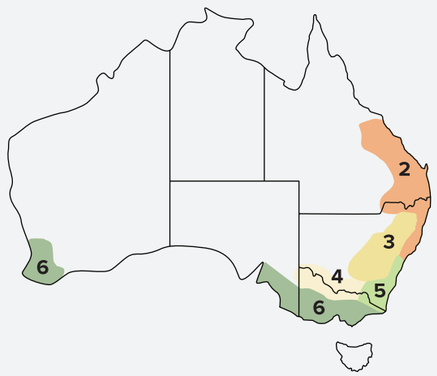
Poor (1) - Excellent (9)

Next generation hybrid in a great maturity.

A modern plant type with erect leaves, low ear placement, notable foliar health and great standability.

- Widely adapted, stable yet high yielding hybrid for silage and grain
- Solid Northern Leaf Blight and Rust resistances will be attractive to growers in high-risk situations
- Excellent early vigour and emergence when sown early

P0937 is a reliable performer in a wide range of environments, sow with confidence and reap the rewards.



Recommended for me

NEW

PIONEER BRAND · SEEDS

P13063 IT

CRM 113

SILAGE YIELD	8
GRAIN YIELD	9
STAYGREEN	5
PLANT HEIGHT	8
DRYLAND ADAPTABILITY	7
COB ROT RESISTANCE	8
NORTHERN LEAF BLIGHT	8
WHOLE PLANT DIGESTIBILITY	8

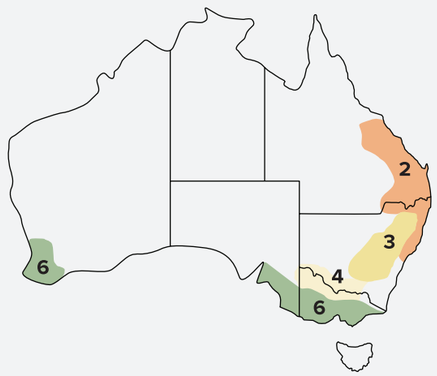
Poor (1) - Excellent (9)

Newest genetics packed with yield, agronomics and herbicide tolerance.

Moderately tall hybrid with excellent standability.

- Well suited to most environments with excellent yield for maturity and well-rounded agronomics
- Moderate staygreen helps get to harvest quickly in southern environments with a shorter season
- Imidazolinone herbicide tolerance for in crop management of difficult summer grasses
- Competitive silage yields with **P1315 IT** with greater standability

P13063 IT is a great mid-maturing option for growers chasing reliability and flexibility. Replaces **P1481** in the hybrid line-up.



Recommended for me

NEW

PIONEER BRAND · SEEDS

P15744 IT

CRM 115

SILAGE YIELD	8
GRAIN YIELD	9
STAYGREEN	8
PLANT HEIGHT	6
DRYLAND ADAPTABILITY	6
COB ROT RESISTANCE	8
NORTHERN LEAF BLIGHT	7
WHOLE PLANT DIGESTIBILITY	8

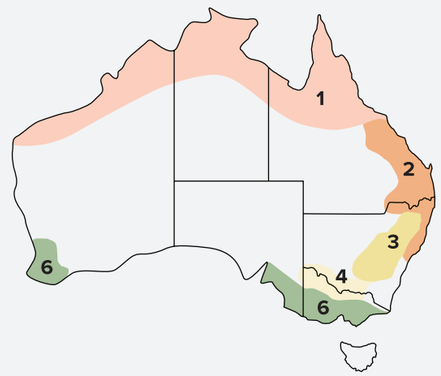
Poor (1) - Excellent (9)

Compact hybrid with top end yield potential.

Excellent drought tolerance drives high performance in dryland and irrigated systems.

- Impressive silage and grain yield for maturity across environments
- High Northern Leaf Blight resistance with superior root and stalk strength
- Sound husk cover protects the developing cob and moderate staygreen brings harvest forward in regions with a shorter season
- Imidazolinone herbicide tolerance provides options for in crop grass weed control

P15744 IT performs across dryland and irrigated situations. Replaces **P1481** and a slightly longer maturity companion to **P1315 IT** in the hybrid line-up.



Recommended for me

IMPORTANT NOTE: Hybrid comparisons 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 page 52. Contact your local Pioneer Territory Sales Manager or Farm Services Consultant for further advice.

See pages 50–51 for hybrid options for your region.

NEW

PIONEER BRAND · SEEDS

P1729

CRM 117

SILAGE YIELD	8
GRAIN YIELD	8
STAYGREEN	7
PLANT HEIGHT	8
DRYLAND ADAPTABILITY	8
COB ROT RESISTANCE	8
NORTHERN LEAF BLIGHT	7
WHOLE PLANT DIGESTIBILITY	7

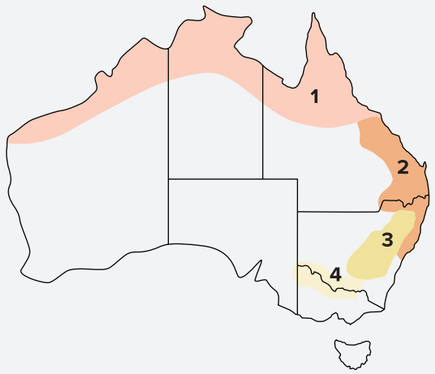
Poor (1) - Excellent (9)

Tall all-rounder that won't disappoint.

Well balanced, full season hybrid providing consistent and reliable yields with excellent agronomics.

- Excellent drought tolerance and standability, foliar health drives top grain and silage yields for its maturity
- High level performance from Northern Victoria to North QLD, NT & top end Western Australia
- Processing market grain quality gives flexibility of end use from silage, feed grain or processing

Plant alongside **P1837** or **P1756** for processing markets.



Recommended for me

PIONEER BRAND · SEEDS

P17822 IT

CRM 117

SILAGE YIELD	8
GRAIN YIELD	9
STAYGREEN	9
PLANT HEIGHT	8
DRYLAND ADAPTABILITY	9
COB ROT RESISTANCE	8
NORTHERN LEAF BLIGHT	8
WHOLE PLANT DIGESTIBILITY	8

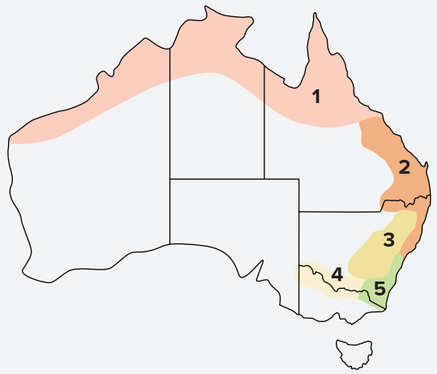
Poor (1) - Excellent (9)

High yielding, full maturity heavyweight.

Exceptional performance for silage and grain, breaking yield barriers.

- Tall plant with excellent root and stalk strength, impressive staygreen and very high resistance to Northern Leaf Blight all combining for preferred silage appeal
- Produces great silage yields with maximum energy content
- Imidazolinone herbicide tolerance adds in crop flexibility to paddock selection and rotations

Outstanding new option to plant alongside **P13036 IT**, **P15744 IT**, and **P2307** depending on maturity requirements.



Recommended for me

PIONEER BRAND · SEEDS

P1837

CRM 118

SILAGE YIELD	8
GRAIN YIELD	8
STAYGREEN	8
PLANT HEIGHT	7
DRYLAND ADAPTABILITY	8
COB ROT RESISTANCE	8
NORTHERN LEAF BLIGHT	7
WHOLE PLANT DIGESTIBILITY	7

Poor (1) - Excellent (9)

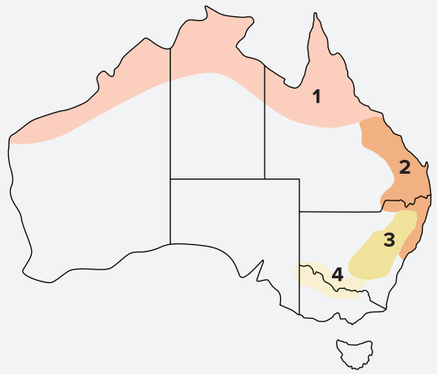
Defensive, reliable, full-season performer.

Superior standability, solid resistance to Northern Leaf Blight and Rust.

- Excellent drought tolerance and staygreen which support season long silage appeal
- Has better foliar health than **P1756** while being slightly later in maturity
- This hybrid adapts well to a range of populations, suitable for dryland and irrigated situations

A widely adapted, stable, full-season hybrid. Plant early in high potential paddocks in warm production areas.

Companion for **P1756** and **P1729** for processing markets or **P17822 IT** where IT herbicide is not required.



Recommended for me

PIONEER BRAND · SEEDS

P2307

CRM 123

SILAGE YIELD	9
GRAIN YIELD	7
STAYGREEN	9
PLANT HEIGHT	9
DRYLAND ADAPTABILITY	7
COB ROT RESISTANCE	7
NORTHERN LEAF BLIGHT	9
WHOLE PLANT DIGESTIBILITY	6

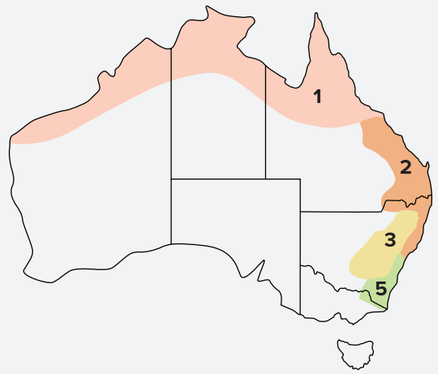
Poor (1) - Excellent (9)

Silage and coastal grain specialist.

Be prepared to be impressed at the resilience of this hybrid.

- Robust tropical genetics provides exceptional late season plant health
- Very tall plant with impressive Northern Leaf Blight tolerance to protect yield in high pressure situations
- With its hard textured, flinty grain, it is best to ensile for 4 months prior to feeding out to maximise quality

P2307 is an excellent silage option for growers requiring reliable silage production in coastal and northern regions with high Northern Leaf Blight pressure.



Recommended for me

IMPORTANT NOTE: Hybrid comparisons 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 page 52. Contact your local Pioneer Territory Sales Manager or Farm Services Consultant for further advice.

Also available in 2025: P1315 IT, P1477W, P1756.
See pages 50–51 for hybrid options for your region.

Maize research *drives yields*

Years of breeding, research, testing and data analysis come together each season to bring Australian growers proven, high-yielding Pioneer maize hybrids that perform in their paddocks.

The hybrid advancement process begins long before hybrids become commercially available. It begins with Pioneer maize breeders in Australia and around the world, progresses to the local research team, and culminates in the commercial release of a limited number of new hybrids.

Pioneer's global breeding process

Pioneer has built one of the largest global maize genetics libraries in the world. The company can trace the genetics of each hybrid back to the beginning of the Pioneer brand, almost 100 years ago. Impeccable pedigree records enable breeders to quickly select parent lines with the greatest potential to address agronomic challenges and increase yield and quality.

THIS PAGE Pioneer Summer Crop Portfolio Manager Ben Vercoe.
OPPOSITE A Seed Technology Research In Key Environments (STRIKE) trial.

Australian breeding programme

The Australian maize breeding programme focuses on developing hybrids that will thrive in Australia's unique growing environment.

Every maize hybrid is produced from two inbreds, which become the male and female lines for the seed production process. Maize Breeder James McLean starts the process by using predictive breeding tools to simulate and predict the best-performing genetic combinations. Promising inbreds are then sourced from Pioneer breeding stations around the world.

Inbred multiplication

Australia's strict biosecurity laws mean that maize seed imported into the country from anywhere other than New Zealand must be grown in a glasshouse under quarantine conditions. Inbred lines are inspected by an authorised person three times throughout the growing season, and the harvested seed is also inspected.

After release from quarantine, the inbred lines are grown in winter and summer nurseries to multiply seed volume.

Hybrid test crosses and research trials

Once there is sufficient seed, male and female inbreds are crossed to create new hybrids. These "test crosses" are planted in intensively monitored research trials where they are rigorously evaluated for a comprehensive range of agronomic traits, including yield, maturity, silage quality and more. Hybrids remain in research trials for up to four years. While several hundred new hybrids enter the testing programme each season, typically less than 10 make the grade to be promoted to the Seed Technology Research In Key Environments (STRIKE) trial programme.

New Zealand hybrids

The more southern dairy districts of Australia grow maize hybrids of similar comparative relative maturity (CRM) to those grown by New Zealand dairy producers. For the past 50 years, Genetic Technologies (also a Yates family-owned business) has been producing and distributing Pioneer products in New Zealand. Each season, around 100 hybrids are trialled in 150 silage trials throughout key dairy districts to identify high-yielding, top-quality silage hybrids.

Pioneer hybrid seed sold in New Zealand is produced there and can be imported directly into Australia without the need for quarantine. This is the main source of short-maturity germplasm for the Australian STRIKE trialling program.

A hybrid evaluation site in New Zealand.

James McLean
Australian Maize Breeder

According to James

Maize Breeder James McLean has been part of the Pioneer Seeds Australia breeding effort for the past seven years. Previously, he worked as a Senior Field Technician at the University of Queensland.

"We start with hundreds of Pioneer inbreds sourced from around the globe and ultimately end up with a handful of high-performing new hybrids which have been specifically selected for Australian growing conditions" says James. "It's an exciting process to be involved in, and I enjoy the fact that every piece of data we collect in the field can be used to help us make the best product advancement decisions".

"While yield and silage quality are important, we are also looking for hybrids which deliver the full suite of agronomic traits including standability, disease resistance and late season plant health. The aim is always to provide hybrids that will deliver enhanced reliability and profitability to growers".

STRIKE trial programme

Each season, the Australian research team plants and harvests a total of more than 30 silage and grain STRIKE trials across the key maize-growing regions in Australia to help identify higher-yielding hybrids. Trials include a mix of commercial and pre-commercial hybrids, including experimental hybrids from the Australian maize breeding programme and shorter maturity (below 105 CRM) hybrids sourced from New Zealand.

STRIKE trials are planted in plots within commercial maize crops using a precision research planter. Each trial has a total of three replicates and utilises diagonal check hybrids to help correct for environmental variation across the trial site. The research team monitor STRIKE trials throughout the growing season, and plots are scored for a wide range of agronomic traits. Silage STRIKE trials are harvested using a small-plot forage harvester, and samples are collected for laboratory drymatter and quality analysis. Grain trials are harvested using a research combine.

Each season, multi-year hybrid performance information collected from the STRIKE trials is collated and statistically analysed using customised statistical analysis software.

Pioneer Summer Crop Portfolio Manager Ben Vercoe believes that the addition of the STRIKE trial programme has been instrumental in driving the recent yield gains of Pioneer maize hybrids in Australia.

“The STRIKE trials have given us the ability to test a range of hybrids in a number of different locations with high accuracy” says Ben. “From these trials we are gathering statistically robust data which allows us to identify and bring to market the highest yielding hybrids and to understand their strengths and weaknesses so we can position the right product in the right paddock”.

Product knowledge plots

Hybrids are tested for three years in the STRIKE programme. In their final year, the handful of grain and silage hybrids that possess promising agronomic, yield and quality characteristics are added to the Product Knowledge Plot (PKP) stage of testing. Here, they are planted in strips alongside commercially available hybrids in growers’ paddocks.

“The PKP’s are a great way for local growers, agronomists and resellers to see the latest Pioneer genetics in their local environment” says Ben.

Commercial release

The final stage of the process is commercial release, which typically occurs about eight years after the initial test crosses were made. While the testing process starts with hundreds of new hybrids, each year only a select few make it into a Pioneer bag and into the hands of Australian growers.

Why does Pioneer Seeds invest so much into its local hybrid trialling program? Ben says there are two main reasons:

“Firstly, even though the Australian maize market is small on a global scale, we use a variety of crop management practices to grow a wide range of hybrid maturities for a range of end uses. Growers plant maize across an array of latitudes, soil types, and climatic conditions. A hybrid that performs well in an irrigated paddock may not be suitable for growing under dryland conditions on another farm. We need a comprehensive trialling programme to test hybrids under local growing conditions to be sure of their relative performance”.

“Secondly, our maize growing seasons can be extremely variable. We can’t predict what the weather conditions might be during the next growing season, but by planting trials at many locations over several years, we can be sure our hybrids have been tested under a wide range of conditions”.

If you would like to visit one of the STRIKE trials or PKP plots in your region, contact your local Pioneer Territory Sales Manager (TSM) or Farm Services Consultant.

OPPOSITE Pioneer Territory Sales Manager Tim Lovell inspecting a maize crop.

Farm system *changes deliver*

THE VINNICOMBE FAMILY, YARRAWALLA

LEFT Sarah, daughter Hollee, son Henry and Dehne.

Dairy farmers sometimes have several reasons for making systems changes, but Dehne Vinnicombe sums up his in one simple statement.

"You can't farm like Grandpa did, he's not here, and times have changed".

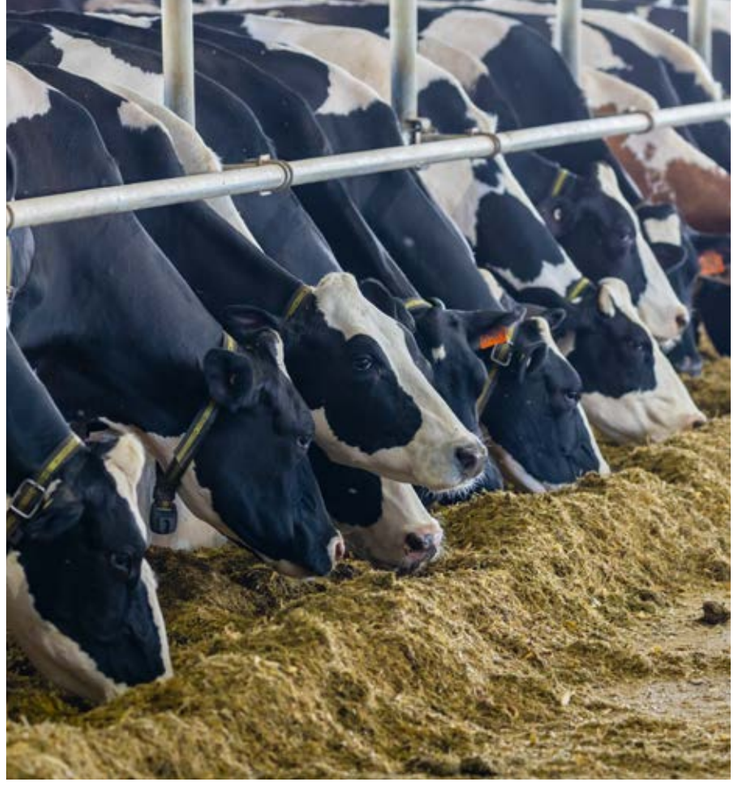
Dehne and his wife Sarah farm 1,200 ha at Calivil, about 60 km north of Bendigo in Victoria. In the 2024-25 season, their 700-cow Holstein-Friesian herd produced 525,000 kgMS or 750 kgMS per cow.

Sarah grew up on a family wheat farm in England and migrated to Australia 23 years ago. Dehne's family farmed at Yarrawalla, and in his early twenties he started share farming for his grandmother, milking 110 cows. A few years later he went into partnership with his father Ron and over several decades they slowly expanded both land area and cow numbers.

Farm walk

- Milk 700 Holstein cows indoors year-round on 1,200 ha
- Produced 525,000kgMS (750 kgMS/cow) in 2024-25 season
- 100 ha maize grown averaging 20-22 tDM/ha
- Plants a mix of Pioneer® brand P1481, P0937 and P9911

> “The cows are happy and content. They are really thriving in this type of system”



While the Vinnicombe’s pasture-based system was consistently profitable, they were cut and carrying a large volume of forage from out blocks and using very basic feedpad facilities (or feeding in the paddock to youngstock). The price of water was rising, and Dehne realised that irrigating pasture was a poor use of expensive water. The seasons were changing, and the farm’s heavy soils meant that wet winters were as much of a challenge as summer dries.

When the opportunity arose to lock in a relatively high milk price for several years, provided production remained relatively flat year-round, the partnership began exploring different production systems.

An analysis showed that moving the herd indoors stacked up financially, and it took a year to complete the first free-stall barn.

“Our feed wastage dropped from around 25% in the grazing system to around two per cent in the barn, and that alone is huge” says Dehne. “The cows are happy and content. They are really thriving in this type of system”.

The barn utilises sand bedding and a flood wash system which separates effluent liquids and solids.

Manure is flushed from the lanes of the free stall barn into a four-metre-deep effluent pond where it is screened and separated. A screw press squeezes moisture out of the slurry, and the solids run along a conveyor belt into a shed.

The nutrient-rich slurry water heads into a two-pond effluent system where it is stored and added to the irrigation water as needed. Solids are spread onto the cropping land to help replenish soil organic matter.

Dehne has been growing maize for silage for the past nine years, and since the cows were moved indoors, he has expanded the growing area to 100 hectares.

“Maize delivers a good return from our irrigation water, it makes great use of the nutrients in the effluent water, and we can harvest a large volume of feed from the area” says Dehne. “Crops average 20-22 tDM/ha with the best paddocks delivering up to 27 tDM/ha”.

On average, the maize silage costs $180/tDM in the stack.

After the maize silage is harvested in March, the area is planted into cereal or vetch which are harvested for silage yielding around 10 tDM/ha and 7 tDM/ha respectively.

“Homegrown feed is the cheapest feed, and growing maize for silage helps us maximise the amount we can harvest from each hectare”.

Dehne knows exactly what he wants in a maize hybrid.

“It’s not all about big yields, we are chasing high levels of starch, so late season plant health is really important too” says Dehne. “If the plant stays green for longer at the end of the season, we can delay harvest, so it produces more grain and still has enough moisture to ensile well”.

In the 2024-25 growing season, a mix of Pioneer® brand P1481, P0937 and P9911 was planted on the farm.

“Pioneer have provided me with a lot of support over the years” says Dehne. “It’s great to be able to ring them whenever I need help with my crop”.

All the farm’s maize silage is inoculated with Pioneer® brand 11CFT, which helps keep the silage cool and improves fibre digestibility.

“Poor quality silage can cost you a lot of production” says Dehne. “It’s worthwhile to spend a bit more and apply a high-quality inoculant”.

Cows calve year-round and are divided into different pens depending on their age and stage of lactation. They are fed a total mixed ration (TMR) comprised of maize, vetch or lucerne, and cereal silage, as well as cottonseed, wheat, canola, and sometimes almond hulls.

“Almost everything the cows need is in the TMR” says Dehne. “We only feed 1 kg/day of grain to entice the cows into the milking shed”.

Dehne aims to have at least 18 months of feed and water on hand.

“If the water is cheap, we grow a bit more maize, which gives us a feed buffer to help protect us from seasonal variations in crop yields or large increases in the water price”.

Dehne’s long-term goal is to have three barns and milk around 2,500 cows.

“The barn has taken a lot of the stress out of farming” says Dehne. “It gives us real confidence in our future”.

LEFT Pioneer Territory Sales Manager Tim Lovell, Dehne, Sarah and Pioneer Seeds Farm Services Consultant David Smyth.

Summer forage *options*

When it comes to summer feed, Pioneer Seeds' Australian-bred forage sorghum and sudan grass hybrids are an excellent option, producing high yields of forage which can be grazed or harvested and stored as silage or hay.

PIONEER BRAND · SEEDS SSS

GRAZING · HAY · ROUND BALE SILAGE

EARLY SEEDLING VIGOUR	7
FAST FEED	9
LATE SUMMER/CARRY OVER FEED	4
BEEF GRAZING	9
DAIRY GRAZING	9
SHEEP GRAZING	9
HAY MAKING	9
PIT SILAGE	5
ROUND BALE SILAGE	8

Poor (1) - Excellent (9)

A unique Australian product, bred for Aussie conditions.

- Exceptionally quick regrowth allows multiple cuts and grazings throughout the season
- Super fine stems deliver exceptional hay quality and bale-wrapped silage, and is suitable for grazing by all stock types
- Low prussic acid potential means SSS is a safer option than sorghum type forages
- Has a prolific tillering habit ensuring the ability to increase biomass production quickly after grazing or cutting
- Super sweet leaf and stem mean SSS is highly palatable at all stages of growth giving better utilisation by all stock.

Super Sweet Sudan (SSS) is quick to graze and sustains multiple and intensive grazing. SSS produces high quality hay and round bale silage suitable for sheep and cattle.

Recommended for me

PIONEER BRAND · SEEDS MEGA FEED

GRAZING · HAY · ROUND BALE SILAGE

EARLY SEEDLING VIGOUR	9
FAST FEED	8
LATE SUMMER/CARRY OVER FEED	7
BEEF GRAZING	9
DAIRY GRAZING	9
SHEEP GRAZING	7
HAY MAKING	9
PIT SILAGE	5
ROUND BALE SILAGE	9

Poor (1) - Excellent (9)

An ultra-late all-rounder.

- Ultra-late maturity (120 days+ to flower) giving high quality and dry matter feed through to late into the season
- Flexible and adaptable all rounder hybrid that is well suited to grazing, baling or silage
- Excellent early vigour giving the option to sow early and extend the growing period
- High leaf to stem ratio for increased palatability and quality yield
- High sugar content and energy availability in the leaf and stem converting dry matter into liveweight and milk production

Mega Feed is suited to most situations, with its ultra-late maturity it retains its high-quality feed later than anything else. Strong early vigour means it is one of the first to be sown early in the season to reduce a spring feed gap, while maintaining production late into the season.

Recommended for me

PIONEER® BRAND · SEEDS

MEGA SWEET

GRAZING | PIT SILAGE

EARLY SEEDLING VIGOUR	7
FAST FEED	5
LATE SUMMER/CARRY OVER FEED	9
BEEF GRAZING	9
DAIRY GRAZING	6
SHEEP GRAZING	4
HAY MAKING	5
PIT SILAGE	9
ROUND BALE SILAGE	6

Poor (1) - Excellent (9)

The flexible forage sorghum.

- Flexible grazing option for beef, providing stand-over feed late in the season
- High energy stover and white grain delivers high metabolisable energy for conversion to meat or milk
- Provides more feed for longer, or more cuts of silage, due to its strong regrowth capability
- Mega Sweet delivers the biggest biomass yield over the life of the crop to feed more stock
- Known to be highly sweet and palatable delivering improved utilisation in the field and in the feed trough

Mega Sweet increases its feed value and sweetness as it matures. Can be planted in all sowing windows, for grazing, silage or for late summer and carry-over feed. A great option for quality silage production and is a top choice for grazing cattle.

Recommended for me

PIONEER® BRAND · SEEDS

GRAZE N SILE

PIT SILAGE

EARLY SEEDLING VIGOUR	6
FAST FEED	4
LATE SUMMER/CARRY OVER FEED	5
BEEF GRAZING	5
DAIRY GRAZING	4
SHEEP GRAZING	4
HAY MAKING	5
PIT SILAGE	9
ROUND BALE SILAGE	6

Poor (1) - Excellent (9)

The best choice for pit silage production.

- A water efficient option providing the most comparable feed option to maize silage
- High white grain component delivers proven top quality (ME) silage for meat or milk production
- Good leaf disease resistance for better silage quality and yield
- Regrows after cutting meaning it is able to be cut a second time or grazed
- Higher Fall Army Worm (FAW) tolerance than maize in high pressure situations and easier to control FAW with Graze N Sile's open head

Graze N Sile is a tall, grain-bearing forage sorghum hybrid. These unique attributes mean Graze N Sile produces high quantities of silage with high energy content. The ideal substitute for maize silage in dryland areas or in limited irrigation situations where highest quality silage is the goal.

Recommended for me

PLANT AVAILABLE WATER & NUTRITION: Limited → Excellent

SSS		MEGA FEED		MEGA SWEET		GRAZE N SILE		BETTA GRAZE	
Target established plant population (plants/ha)	Approx sowing rate (kg/ha)	Target established plant population (plants/ha)	Approx sowing rate (kg/ha)	Target established plant population (plants/ha)	Approx sowing rate (kg/ha)	Target established plant population (plants/ha)	Approx sowing rate (kg/ha)	Target established plant population (plants/ha)	Approx sowing rate (kg/ha)
95,000 to 145,000	2 to 3	45,000 to 50,000	2 to 3	30,000 to 50,000	2 to 2.5	30,000 to 55,000	2 to 3	45,000 to 50,000	2 to 3
145,000 to 280,000	3 to 5	65,000 to 100,000	3 to 5	50,000 to 80,000	2.5 to 4	55,000 to 75,000	3 to 4	65,000 to 100,000	3 to 5
280,000 to 450,000	5 to 8	140,000 to 225,000	6 to 10	80,000 to 110,000	4 to 5	75,000 to 110,000	4 to 5	140,000 to 225,000	6 to 10
450,000 to 1,000,000	8 to 15	225,000 to 350,000	10 to 15	110,000 to 150,000	5 to 6	110,000 to 150,000	5 to 6	225,000 to 335,000	10 to 14

Also available:

PIONEER® BRAND · SEEDS

BETTA GRAZE

GRAZING | HAY | ROUND BALE SILAGE

Betta Graze has excellent regrowth after grazing or cutting, partnered with impressive early seedling vigour it can be sown early and grazed quickly by any type of livestock. Highly palatable and is highly suited to general grazing, hay production and round bale silage.

Infrastructure helps drive *dairy success*

A cow shelter, a feedpad and a stack of maize silage have helped south-west Victorian farmers Casey and Bonnie Taylor minimise the impact of the weather on their production and profit. The couple, along with sons Banjo and Jack, milk 600 cows on their property "Surrylea" which is located on the banks of the Surry River near Portland.

The farm consists of a 300-ha milking platform, which includes 40 ha of irrigation, as well as around 280 ha of out blocks. The herd, a three-way cross of Jersey, Holstein, and Swedish Red genetics, produced 350,000 kgMS (583 kgMS/cow) in the 2024-2025 season.

The couple installed their first, simple feedpad in 2009 and made the move to growing maize for silage a decade ago. Since then, the crop has become an integral part of their farming system, with around 25 ha planted each year on the irrigated area.

Casey is looking for a quick maturing maize hybrid that will deliver good yields of high starch maize silage. For the past two seasons he has planted Pioneer® brand P92575 and has been happy with the results.

Crops produce around 21 tDM/ha under the centre pivot and around 18-19 tDM/ha on the hard hose irrigated area of the farm.

RIGHT Jack (left) and Casey Taylor (right) with Pioneer Territory Sales Manager Tess Blake (centre).

Farm walk

- In 2024-25 season produced 350,000 kgMS (583 kgMS/cow)
- 25 ha maize silage planted on irrigated land
- Plants Pioneer brand P92575
- All maize silage inoculated with Pioneer brand 11CFT

> “The cows are producing an extra 1,000 litres per day compared to the same time last season, despite the fact we have had virtually no grass”

“If we get a hot, dry wind from the north, it can be hard to keep enough water in front of the crop using hard hoses” says Casey. “For this reason, we are looking to expand the area under pivot”.

The average cost of maize silage ranges from $140 to $180/tDM, depending on the yield and the amount of water applied to the crop.

“This season the price of cereal hay reached $600 per tonne” says Casey. “Maize silage is much cheaper and of a much better quality”.

All the maize silage is inoculated with Pioneer® brand 11CFT, while the couple apply Pioneer® brand 11G22 on the grass silage.

“Our silage quality is excellent, and the waste is virtually non-existent” says Casey.

Cows calve from mid-March to the end of May.

“We do nine weeks of artificial insemination, starting with sexed semen, and then switch to beef genetics” says Casey. “Each year we get around 250 heifer calves, of which 180 are brought into the herd”.

All the calves are reared to weaning.

“Some years we sell them at 100 kg, but in a good season we will take them through to 200-300 kg” says Casey. “It has been 5-6 years since we sold bobby calves”.

Maize silage is typically fed to milkers from April to the first week of September.

“The farm can get extremely wet in the winter, and historically production would dip in August” says Casey. “We built the original feedpad so we could feed the cows better when the paddocks were saturated”.

Initially, oaten or wheaten hay was fed on the feedpad.

“We were still having issues with early season abortions and our veterinarian said we needed something higher in starch to nutritionally balance the high protein, nitrogen-boosted pastures” says Casey. “We switched to maize silage and have never looked back”.

“Nowadays our empty rate is around 10-11%” says Casey. “Before switching to maize silage, the empty rate was 15-18% despite the fact that we were using a lot of interventions on the non-cyclers”.

In 2022, the feedpad was upgraded, and Casey and Bonnie also invested in a 44-metre x 99-metre Redpath shelter with a wood chip base.

“The shelter allows us to keep the cows off the paddocks when the ground is saturated, and they can move freely to and from the feedpad” says Casey. “It has been a game changer”.

While the initial reason for investing in infrastructure was to avoid wet conditions, it has proved to be equally valuable in the recent very dry years.

In 2024 the farm received only 60% of its normal annual rainfall, resulting in 90% of the area needing to be re-grassed in the autumn.

“We have been feeding 8-9 kgDM per cow per day of a maize silage, grass silage, vetch hay, cotton seed and straw blend on the feedpad as well as grain through the shed” says Casey. “The cows are producing an extra 1,000 litres per day compared to the same time last season, despite the fact we have had virtually no grass”.

OPPOSITE RIGHT Casey Taylor with Pioneer Dairy Specialist Leighton Hart.

“A mixer waggon was in the future plan, but the dry season meant we brought the purchase forward” says Casey. “We believe part of the production gain is coming from being able to deliver a more consistent feed mix to the herd”.

Over the next few years, the farm plan includes irrigation and effluent system upgrades, as well as a larger rotary shed.

“Getting the infrastructure sorted will allow us to take a step back from day-to-day operations so we can focus on managing the farm”.

Boost your *silage performance*

Delivering a fast, efficient fermentation to protect nutrients, improve drymatter recovery, improve aerobic stability and/or increase fibre digestibility, Pioneer® brand inoculants maximise your silage resource from harvest to feeding.

Technology that exceeds just a bottle

With a range of product options suitable for use across a number of crops and a field team to ensure you get the best outcome, Pioneer inoculants will help deliver better silage for your farm every season. There are many reasons Pioneer inoculants will maximise your silage returns:

Patented bacterial strains. Each Pioneer inoculant contains patented strains selected from Pioneer's world-leading collection of naturally occurring silage fermentation bacteria.

Crop-specific inoculants. Research has shown that some bacterial strains perform very well in one crop and poorly in another. For this reason, Pioneer brand inoculants consist of individual strains and combinations selected to optimise the fermentation of specific crops.

Rapid React® aerobic stability technology. Pioneer® brand inoculants with Rapid React® technology create stable feed in just seven days, meaning you can feed your new-crop forages one week after harvest whilst still capturing the benefits of a cool bunker face, reduced drymatter losses and extended bunk life.

Nutrivail® Feed Technology. Pioneer® brand 11CFT contains a novel, proprietary Lactobacillus buchneri strain that produces an enzyme to aid fibre digestion. Additional homofermentative Lactobacillus strains improve bunk life by inhibiting yeast growth at feedout.

Product specific research[1]. Pioneer® brand inoculants have been tested and proven under a range of ensiling conditions. We can provide trial data for each of our quality inoculant products.

Quality assured with ISO 9001:2000. All Pioneer inoculants are produced and managed to the highest quality control standards. We publish guaranteed bacteria levels on the label of every bottle.

Comprehensive in-field support. Every bottle of Pioneer® brand inoculant is supported by an experienced, local field team with extensive silage-making expertise.

[1] Trial results available on request.

Maize inoculants

Pioneer® brand

11CFT

Maize silage specific inoculant with unique strains of Lactobacillus buchneri, which produce enzymes that improve fibre digestibility[2] and help reduce heating and improve silage quality[3].

Pioneer® brand

11C33

Maize silage specific inoculant with next-generation Lactobacillus buchneri designed to reduce heating and improve silage quality. Rapid React aerobic stability technology provides less heating and stable feed in 7 days[3].

Pioneer® brand

1174

Improves drymatter recovery and silage quality of all forage crops.

Pasture and other crop inoculants

Pioneer® brand

11G22

A grass/lucerne/cereal silage inoculant with next-generation Lactobacillus buchneri designed to reduce heating and improve silage quality. Rapid React aerobic stability technology provides less heating and stable feed in 7 days[3].

Pioneer® brand

1127

Produces top quality pasture silage with enhanced fermentation for high producing dairy cows and specialised beef production[1].

Pioneer® brand

1174

Improves drymatter recovery and silage quality of all forage crops.

SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING PIONEER BRAND INOCULANTS

[1] Trial results available on request.
[2] There is no problem with feeding Nutrivail-treated silages immediately upon ensiling, but the full benefit of the enzyme activity will not be realised until the silage has fermented for 60 days.
[3]Improved aerobic stability and reduced heating is relative to untreated silage. Actual results may vary. The effect of any silage inoculant is dependent upon management at harvest, storage and feedout. Factors such as moisture, maturity, chop length and compaction will determine inoculant efficacy.

Pioneer *celebrates* 50 years in Australia

This year, we celebrate 50 years since the establishment of the Pioneer Hi-Bred Seed Company in Australia. The company's humble beginnings were at Kingaroy in Queensland, with a handful of staff focused on developing and marketing unique, high-performing maize and sorghum hybrids using Pioneer's elite germplasm.

While the story of Pioneer Seeds in Australia began in 1975, the Pioneer brand's roots reach back much earlier in the twentieth century to Iowa, USA. Henry Wallace was one of a small number of people in the world who recognised the many benefits that could be gained from growing hybrid maize. He began experimenting with the crop in high school and while at Iowa State College, became fascinated with the relatively new science of hybrid genetics. After graduating in 1910, Henry started breeding hybrid maize and, by 1923, produced a high-yielding hybrid, which he called Copper Cross. In 1924, it became the first hybrid to win the gold medal in the Iowa State Corn Yield Contest. In 1926 Henry incorporated the Hi-Bred Corn Company, which later became Pioneer Hi-Bred International. Later in life, Henry Wallace was elected Vice President of the U.S.A. under President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Back in Australia, the Company commenced maize and sorghum breeding programmes, and in 1981, its name was changed to Pioneer Hi-Bred Australia. A property was purchased at Narromine, New South Wales, in 1984, and construction of a seed production facility began the following year. The head office and research programme for Pioneer in Australia moved from Kingaroy to Toowoomba, Queensland, in 1989.

While hybrid maize, sorghum and forage were the company's key focus for the first two decades, Pioneer began developing canola products for the Australian market in the 1990's with the first open pollinated Pioneer canola variety, commercially released in 1999. The next decade saw game-changing advancements come to market with the introduction of herbicide-tolerant canola hybrids in Australia.

In 2016, the New Zealand-based Yates family was given the opportunity to take on the production and distribution of Pioneer brand products in Australia. The Yates family were no strangers to the seed industry or the Pioneer brand.

In the late 1700's, English cotton importer James Yates purchased a small quantity of Egyptian cotton seed and sold it to the colonist farmers in the southern part of the present-day U.S.A. This proved an inspired move as the demand for cotton seeds grew and soon

James began expanding the business to develop, produce and distribute the seed of many other plant species.

Almost a century later, James's great-grandson, Arthur, made the long, arduous sea voyage to New Zealand. Arthur worked as a shepherd and scythed grass seed from roadsides to supplement his income. The seed revenue quickly outstripped his shepherd's wages, and in 1882, Arthur moved to Auckland, rented a rickety wooden shop and opened a specialist seed business.

Arthur's younger brother, Ernest Yates, travelled from England to join him in business in 1886. Ernest was followed in the trade by his son Norman, and in 1973, Norman's son Philip became Chief Executive and Managing Director.

Arthur Yates and Co. Ltd and Yates Reliable Seeds had become a household name, wholesaling seed of every kind from flowers to vegetables, broad-acre agricultural seeds and bird seed. In 1975, Philip signed an agreement to produce and distribute Pioneer® brand seed in New Zealand. His son William, who joined the business in 1990, is the seventh generation of the family to be involved in the seed trade and is Managing Director for GenTech Seeds (AU) Pty Ltd and Genetic Technologies (NZ) Ltd. These two businesses are singularly dedicated to producing and distributing Pioneer canola, maize and sorghum seed and marketing the Pioneer silage inoculant range, in Australia and New Zealand respectively.

"It is a great privilege to represent Pioneer in the Australasian market. We are committed to investing in industry-leading breeding and product development programmes to deliver higher-performing hybrids to growers and the industry" says Will. "The in-field Pioneer Seeds team resides in all the key cropping regions around the country. Their focus is providing helpful management advice to assist farmers to maximise the return they make from planting Pioneer products".

"As we celebrate fifty years of Pioneer in Australia this year, I want to warmly thank all the farmers who have planted Pioneer as well as the many resellers, agronomists, contractors, consultants, and past and present members of the Pioneer team who have supported them over all those years".

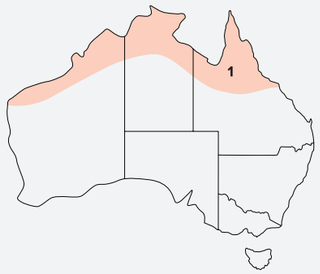
LEFT Will and Philip Yates.

Hybrid options for your region

Use the tables below to choose your region then identify hybrid options which match your maturity requirements.

Region 1

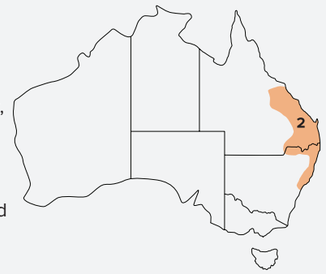
Northern Australia including, North QLD, Northern Territory and Northern WA



Hybrids	Maturity category
NEW P15744 IT	Mid
P1729	Full
P1756	Full
NEW P17822 IT	Full
P1837	Full
P2307	Full

Region 2

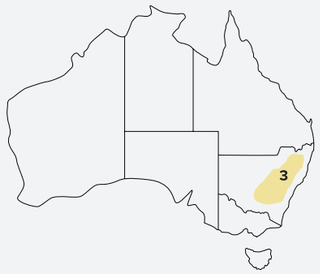
Central QLD, Wide Bay & Burnett, Darling Downs, Western Downs, Border Rivers, South-East QLD and North Coast NSW



Hybrids	Maturity category	Hybrids	Maturity category
P0937	Mid	P1729	Full
NEW P13063 IT	Mid	P1756	Full
P1315IT	Mid	NEW P17822 IT	Full
P1477W	Mid	P1837	Full
NEW P15744 IT	Mid	P2307	Full

Region 3

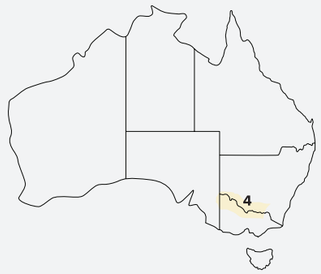
Northern NSW, Liverpool Plains, Central West NSW, Riverina



Hybrids	Maturity category	Hybrids	Maturity category
P0937	Mid	P1729	Full
NEW P13063 IT	Mid	P1756	Full
P1315IT	Mid	NEW P17822 IT	Full
P1477W	Mid	P1837	Full
NEW P15744 IT	Mid	P2307	Full

Region 4

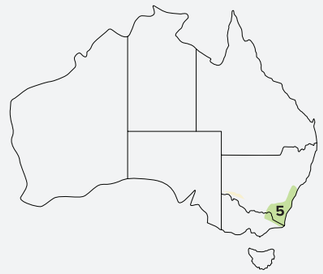
Northern VIC and Southern NSW



Hybrids	Maturity category	Hybrids	Maturity category
P9978	Quick	NEW P15744 IT	Mid
NEW P07003	Mid	P1729	Full
P0937	Mid	P1756	Full
NEW P13063 IT	Mid	NEW P17822 IT	Full
P1315IT	Mid	P1837	Full
P1477W	Mid		

Region 5

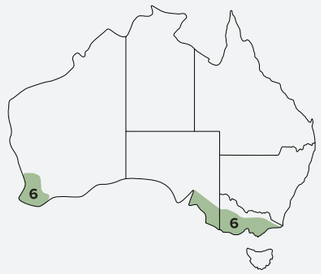
Hunter Valley, Sydney Basin, Central and South Coast NSW



Hybrids	Maturity category
P92575	Quick
P9978	Quick
NEW P07003	Mid
P0937	Mid
NEW P17822 IT	Full
P2307	Full

Region 6

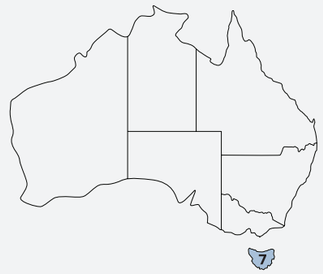
Gippsland, Western Districts of VIC, South-East South Australia, Southern WA



Hybrids	Maturity category	Hybrids	Maturity category
P7524	Ultra quick	P0937	Mid
P8500	Ultra quick	NEW P13063 IT	Mid
P92575	Quick	P1315 IT	Mid
P9978	Quick	P1477W	Mid
NEW P07003	Mid	NEW P15744 IT	Mid

Region 7

Tasmania



Hybrids	Maturity category
P7524	Ultra quick
P8500	Ultra quick
P92575	Quick

Notes

The hybrid options by region tables are intended as a guideline only and are mainly based on hybrid CRM. In some cases, other hybrids may also be suitable for your growing environment. For farm specific advice talk to your local Pioneer Territory Sales Manager or Farm Services Consultant.

Pioneer® Seeds Maize Silage hybrid trait characteristics for 2025-2026

Hybrid	Maturity category	CRM	Silage yield for maturity[1]	Grain yield for maturity	Plant height[3]	Cob rot resistance[4]	Dryland adaptability[5]	Northern leaf blight resistance[6]	Staygreen[7]	Whole plant digestibility[8]
P7524	Ultra Quick	75	8	7	8	7	7	4	7	8
P8500	Ultra Quick	85	9	7	8	8	8	5	7	7
P92575	Quick	92	9	9	8	8	8	8	9	7
P9978	Quick	99	9	9	8	8	8	7	9	7
NEW P07003	Mid	107	7	N/A	8	N/A	N/A	6	8	9
P0937	Mid	109	8	9	8	8	7	7	7	8
NEW P13063 IT	Mid	113	8	9	8	8	7	8	5	8
P1315 IT	Mid	113	9	7	9	8	8	7	9	7
P1477W	Mid	114	9	9	7	6	N/A	7	8	6
NEW P15744 IT	Mid	115	8	9	6	8	6	7	8	8
P1729	Full	117	8	8	8	8	8	7	7	7
P1756	Full	117	8	7	7	8	7	7	7	7
NEW P17822 IT	Full	117	8	9	8	8	9	8	9	8
P1837	Full	118	8	8	7	8	8	7	8	7
P2307	Full	123	9	7	9	7	7	9	9	6

Ratings 9 = Outstanding 1 = Poor NEW = New hybrid CRM = Comparative Relative Maturity N/A = Not available

Trait characteristic notes.

1 Silage comparative relative maturity (CRM):

Pioneer silage CRM ratings provide a comparison between Pioneer hybrids indicating the relative rates at which hybrids reach harvestable whole plant drymatter. They do not represent actual calendar days from planting to harvest.

2 Silage yield for maturity:

Pioneer hybrid trait rating comparisons should only be made within a range of + or – 4 CRM. Analysis of differences in harvest drymatter percentages between hybrids measured in our Australian STRIKE trials show products compared within + or – 4 CRM will generally reach ideal silage harvest maturity (defined as 30% - 38% DM) within a few days of each other.

3 Plant height:

9 = Tall. 1 = Short.

4 Cob rot resistance:

Ratings are based on Australian field observations. While cob rot is not normally a significant issue in silage crops, it is an important consideration where there is a chance the crop may be harvested for grain.

5 Dryland adaptability:

This rating indicates a hybrids ability to perform in non-irrigated environments. Hybrids with high dryland adaptability have roots with excellent water foraging ability and maintain good plant health between rain events. Note that maize yield will always be impacted to some degree by severe moisture deficits.

6 Northern Leaf Blight (NLB):

8 to 9 = Highly resistant. 6 to 7 = Resistant. 4 to 5 = Moderately resistant. 1 to 3 = Susceptible. Ratings are based on visual assessment data from overseas and/or Australian trials. In conditions where NLB risk is high, growers should consider planting hybrids with higher NLB resistance ratings.

7 Staygreen:

A measure of late season plant health. A lower score means that the plant stover loses colour and dries down more rapidly at maturity. Higher ratings indicate the plant stays greener allowing for a wider harvest window.

8 Whole plant digestibility:

Whole plant digestibility is based on starch content and fibre digestibility measurements taken from samples collected from Pioneer STRIKE trials in Australia. Maize silage quality can vary greatly between seasons and growing environments. This rating should be used as a guide only.

Publication abbreviations

DM = drymatter
ha = hectare
kgDM = kilograms of drymatter
kgDM/ha = kilograms of drymatter per hectare
kgMS = kilograms of milk solids
kgMS/cow = kilograms of milksolids per cow
N/A = not available
tDM = tonnes of drymatter
$/tDM = dollars per tonne of drymatter

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Scan to find your local Territory Sales Manager or Farm Services Consultant

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