

Late harvest of forage maize can present a high risk of soil damage, limit opportunities to address soil structural issues or successfully establish an autumn sown crop resulting in reduced infiltration, and increased risks of run-off and flooding.

This measure will help to address soil structural issues following maize and reduce adverse impacts of this crop on water quality and localised flooding.

Requirements

- **Implement soil management measures to improve water infiltration by 20th October, by either:**

Establishing a green cover crop - choose large seeded varieties which will establish quickly, winter cereals, rye or hybrid or tetraploid rye have good autumn vigour - ensure cultivations to establish the cover alleviate any compaction caused by the previous crop and harvesting operation. Avoid overworking the soil if drilling a following crop and establish in as coarse a seed bed as practical and avoid over consolidation, or:

Performing a primary cultivation to alleviate soil compaction and improve infiltration such as ploughing or the use of deeper working tines to produce a rough surface resilient to winter rainfall.

To comply with this measure, there must be evidence of implementation from **20th October onwards**.

