

BETTER MAIZE MORE MONEY

GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES
FOR IMPROVED MAIZE

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LAND PREPARATION AND SEED SELECTION

- Start field preparation 2 to 3 weeks before the start of the rainy season. First clear shrubs and stumps. Apply Glyphosate for total weed control on actively growing weeds, and wait for 10-14 days before tilling
- Till the soil uniformly to a depth of 20 – 30 cm. Tilling helps to control weeds, kill some insects and also makes it easier to add manure and plant.
- Plant improved varieties, use newly purchased seed every season instead of recycling old grain, improved seed give better yields.
- Read the information on the maize seed packet to know the germination rate, expiry date, and the area where the maize should be grown.
- Using the right seeds ensures good germination and good yields.
- You will need about 25 kg of maize per hectare (10 kg per acre)

APPLYING FERTILIZER

- Maize needs a good supply of nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) to grow well. For sandy soils or where soil analysis has shown low levels of potassium (K), potassium may also be needed.
- Apply nitrogen in three equal splits - at planting, at 3 and 6 weeks after germination.
- Apply phosphorus at planting.

- Apply the right amount of fertilizer to get the desired yields. The right fertilizer rate is determined by the target yield and the nutrient concentration of the fertilizer.

PLANTING

- To ensure good spacing, mark rows at 75 cm apart. Within the rows, make holes 25 cm apart. Holes should be about 5 cm deep.
- Good spacing ensures better crop growth, makes it easier to weed and reduces the spread of pests and diseases.

“GOOD SPACING ENSURES BETTER CROP GROWTH”

- Apply the right fertilizer at planting to ensure the maize has nutrients after germinating. Put the fertilizer in the planting holes and cover with a little soil to avoid contact with the seeds
- Place one seed per hole and cover the hole with soil

MANAGEMENT

- Protect the plants from attack by rodents and birds using local methods.
- At 10 days after planting, check for gaps along the rows and plant seed to fill any gaps.
- Continuously check for pest and disease attack.



- If armyworm is identified, apply solutions like Ampligo 150ZC and seek advice from extension officers or agro dealers.
- Manually weed field at 3 and 6 weeks after germination, shake off soil from the weed roots so that the weeds do not grow again.
 - Or apply pre emergence herbicide like atrazine plus metolachlor @4lt/ha for weed control, if produce is required for seeds apply paraquat @3lt/ha for post emergence at 8 weeks after planting
 - Immediately after the first weeding, top dress the crop with a third of the nitrogen supplying fertilizer.
 - Top-dress for the second time immediately after the second weeding.
 - Apply fertilizer around each plant, 2 inches (5 cm) away from plant, and cover with soil.
 - Topdressing should be done when the soil is moist so that fertilizer uptake can be efficient.
 - Harvest maize as soon as it is dry. Delayed harvesting will lead to withering and falling of the cobs and attract birds, insects, and diseases.