



BEST FARMER PRACTICES

MAIZE /KASOLI

02 MAIZE



STEPS FOR GROWING

REQUIREMENTS

Maize grows best in well drained and aerated deep loam or sandy loamy soils and prefers well distributed rains over the growing season.

1. LAND PREPARATION

It should be done at the end of the harvesting period which should be about 3 weeks or 21 days before planting to enable the breakdown of organic matter.

The land should be ploughed at least twice to obtain a fairly rough seedbed. Compost or manure can be applied after the first cultivation to allow adequate decomposition.

NOTE;

Manure is applied at a rate of 4 to 6 tons per acre.

2. PLANTING

This should be done at the onset

Late planting should be **avoided** since it makes the maize prone to pest and disease incidences.

Two seeds can be placed in each hole following a spacing of 75cm by 60cm. Following this spacing, 10kg of maize can be planted in one acre

Synthetic fertilisers like **DAP** can be applied at the time of planting following a rate of 5-7g/one bottle cup per hole. The recommended rate per acre is 50kg.

3. WEEDING

It can be done every 2 weeks since they will be appearing every after that period. This can be done manually using tools like hoes, or by the help of selective post emergence herbicides like Metrazine



PEST

FALL ARMYWORM BORER

It is a migratory pest that feeds heavily on the shoot leaving only stems and midribs of leaves

MANAGEMENT

Timely planting

Deep plough the soils to bury the larvae and pupae

Remove all crop residues after harvest since they can be temporary hiding place

Constant monitoring of the fields for the pests to enable early control.

Use systemic insecticides like **Striker**



PEST

STEM BORER

They bore into leaves, stems and maize cobs

MANAGEMENT

Early planting

Remove maize stalks after harvest as they can act as temporary hiding places

Practice crop rotation

Uproot infected plants

Use recommended insecticides like **Striker**.

**PEST****CUT WORMS**

They emerge at night and cut the seedling off at soil level soon after germination.

MANAGEMENT

Use treated seeds

**PEST****TERMITES****MANAGEMENT**

Destroy all termite ant-hills in the field
Use termiticides like *Ant Killer*

DISEASES



DISEASE

MAIZE LETHAL NECROSIS

It is seed-borne and is spread by maize thrips and leaf beetles

Symptoms include;
yellowing and dying of the leaves leading to premature plant death,
failure to tassel, no ears and rotting of cobs

MANAGEMENT

Uproot and burn diseased plants

Plant certified resistant seed variety

Practice general field hygiene



DISEASE

MAIZE STREAK VIRUS

It is transmitted by leafhoppers eating leaves

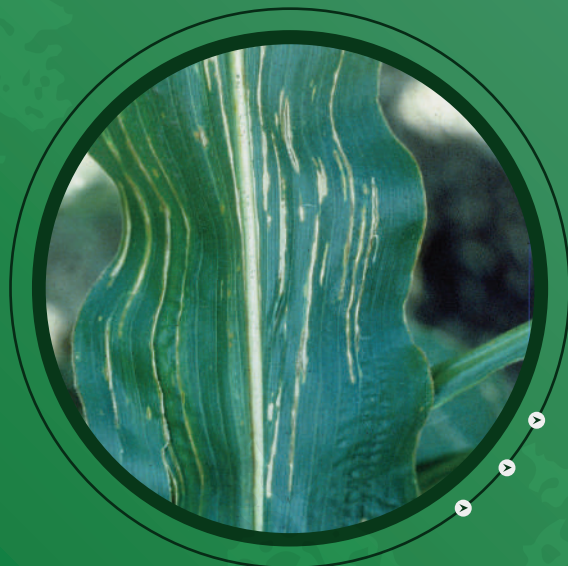
Symptoms include;
yellowing and dying of the leaves leading to premature plant death,
failure to tassel, no ears and rotting of cobs

MANAGEMENT

Uproot and burn diseased plants

Plant certified resistant seed variety

Practice general field hygiene



**DISEASE****MAIZE RUST**

It is air-borne

Symptoms include;
small elongated powderly dark brown spots on both surfaces of the leaves

MANAGEMENT

Practice crop rotation

Spray with copper based fungicides like Sulcop 50 DF, Nordox

**DISEASE****MAIZE
EAR ROT**

Symptoms include;
irregular bleached areas on husks which enlarge until the husks become completely dried although the plant is still green.

MANAGEMENT

Timely harvesting

Reduce the infestation of stem borers and fall armyworm

- Harvesting

Maize is harvested at different physiological stages depending on the intended use that it is harvested for;

*while the **cobs are green** and the grains are beginning to harden if **it is for fresh eating**, it is harvested when the plant has attained **full physiological maturity** if it is **meant for grain** and it is harvested at **milk stage** if it is meant for silage.*

- Post harvest handling

It involves practices such as transportation, drying, shelling/threshing, packaging and storage.

- Drying should be done on tarpaulins instead of bare ground to ensure quality.
- Storage should be done in well ventilated dry structures which are protected from storage pests like rat
- Do not store the coffee in the same room as other farm produce.
- Fumigation can be employed as a measure to manage the storage pests using fumigants like phosphine.

THANK YOU