



BEST FARMER PRACTICES

BANANA /MATOOKE

03 BANANAS



STEPS FOR GROWING

REQUIREMENTS

They require well drained and aerated soils and need adequate rainfall to enable proper growth if the plants

1. LAND PREPARATION

Before planting, it is key to carry out deep soil cultivation through ploughing or harrowing.

Bushes and tree stumps should be removed from the field

The top soil should be mixed with well **decomposed manure** (about 20-30kg) with 200g of TSP or **DAP** and it should be given 2 week before planting.

6. BUD REMOVAL

The male buff should be removed when the fingers on the cluster just turn upwards.

It's removal helps to reduce fruit diseases like cigar end rot, banana wilt disease which are transmitted

7. PROPPING

This is done to prevent the plants with maturing branches from breaking or toppling and it's by the help of pegs or rope.

2. PLANTING

The holes should be dug to a **depth of 2ft** and they should be **3ft wide and long** to allow for root expansion and water penetration.

The spacing of **3m** by **3m** should be followed while setting up the holes.

It is always key to source for and hence plant clean/disease free planting materials to avoid introducing them into the plantation

5. PRUNNING

It involves the removal of dry and old leaves and sheaths from the plants that face down to the pseudo stem and this should be done atleast twice a year.

3. GAP FILLING

It involves the replanting of the suckers that didn't grow well to maintain the recommended plant population in the field.

Missing plants are usually due to wrong spacing or death of the plants due to different stress factors

4. TOP DRESSING

Apply **18kg of manure** (approximately two basins) per mat. This should be mixed with the top soil and placed inside the hole

Synthetic fertilisers like NPK can also be used. **120g of NPK** and **92g of MOP** can be applied per stool twice in each of the two rainy seasons



PEST

BANANA WEEVIL

It is also known as *kayovu in Luganda*. Weevil damage results from larvae feeding and tunnelling into the banana corms and pseudo stems

MANAGEMENT

Clean planting materials

Deeply tunnelled corms should be discarded

Pared materials should be removed from the plantation immediately to avoid adult weevils from laying eggs in them.

To ensure a greater level of cleanliness, the pared corms can be subjected to hot water treatment (**52 - 55°C** for 20 minutes) or chemical dipping (a solution of 1.5cc of *Dursban* or *Dudu tox* or *Ant Killer* per litre of water for 1 hour to kill any weevil larvae eggs.

Field sanitation

It involves clean weeding, sucker removal, pruning, manure application and mulching. This leads to production of vigorous plants which are less affected by weevil damage.



PEST

NEMATODES

Use of clean planting materials

MANAGEMENT

Use of clean planting materials

Clean planting materials can be obtained by corm pairing which could be followed by hot water treatment at 52°C - 55°C for 20 minutes

Carbofuran can also be used in the control of the pest.

**DISEASE****BANANA BACTERIAL WILT**

The disease can cause up to 100% yield loss. It is spread through sharing of tools that are not sterilised, using infected planting materials and by insects that visit the male buds.

MANAGEMENT

Use only clean planting materials

Perform routine inspection of your field for early detection of the symptoms of the disease and management.

Remove the male bud using a forked stick when the banana fingers face upwards to avoid attracting of insects that can spread the disease.

All tools should be disinfected by dipping them in **20% JIK** solution.

Uproot and burn the affected plants

**DISEASE****BLACK SIGATOKA**

It is a fungal disease that destroys banana leaves also called *Leaf Streak Sigatoka*. The first symptoms are narrow, rusty, reddish-brown streaks on the underside of leaves. These become dark brown or black spots on both surfaces and develop yellow margins and grey centres

MANAGEMENT

Cultural practices such as removal of affected leaves, adequate spacing of plants and efficient drainage within orchards

Planting of resistant cultivars e.g **M9, NAROBANS**

Spraying with fungicides

- Harvesting

The fruits need to be picked at optimum maturity.

Fruits harvested young are more susceptible to mechanical damage and have poor eating quality when cooked, option ripening.

Harvesting at an advanced stage of maturity isn't good for fruits intended for export marketing since they may need to spend more than a week within the marketing system before reaching the final consumer.

The most significant visual changes occur in size, shape, length and volume of the fruit as bunches advance in age.

- Post harvest handling

During storage especially for the bananas that are to be exported, the store should kept as cool as possible.

Refrigeration can be used too during storage and transportation.

