

Series 7, Episode 10

Kenneth and Rebecca's Farm, Nakuru, KENYA

This leaflet contains information on: soil testing, storing fodder, tomato pests and diseases, Mitsubishi Fuso Canter Truck



If undelivered, please return to The Mediae Company, PO Box 215-00502, Karen.

For more information, SMS "SOIL" to 30606

Soil Testing

For a good crop, look after your soil. Do a soil test on your shamba. It will tell you how good your soil is and what you need to add to make it better. It will also tell you which crops will grow well in it. **Cropnuts** does soil tests.

How to take a soil sample



1. Take samples in a zig zag across your field. You need at least 10 samples from each field.



2. Use a soil auger or panga to take a sample 1 ft deep.



3. Put samples from same field in a bucket & mix thoroughly. Scoop out enough sample to fill 1/2 of **CropNuts** soil test bag

Getting your Soil Test results

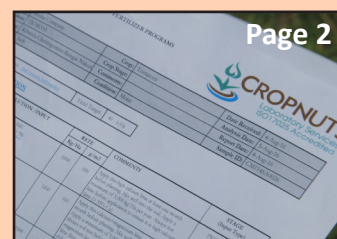
Page 1 tells you how good your soil is for different nutrients. **Green** means that the levels are good. **Red** means that the levels are too high or too low.

Page 2 tells you how to make your soil better. It tells you which fertilizers to add, when to add them, and how much to add.

Calcium

Your cows need calcium for strong bones and good quality milk. They get calcium from fodder crops. When crops grow, they take calcium and other nutrients from the soil. This calcium must be replaced. Calcium also 'unlocks the soil', to make other nutrients available to the crop.

Make sure the soil sample is labelled clearly with your name, phone number, field and crop.



Gypsum

Gypsum improves your soil. It adds **calcium** and **sulphur**. Gypsum is affordable and can be bought from agrovets.

Using gypsum will give you a higher yield of fodder crops and your cows that eat them will give you better milk.

Apply gypsum in the dry season after cutting back your crop.

Storing Fodder

Aflatoxins

Aflatoxins are toxins made by mould. Mould will grow on your stored fodder if the fodder is not completely dry. If your cow eats fodder with aflatoxins, it will give less milk and will not get pregnant easily. Drinking milk from a cow that has eaten aflatoxins can make you and your family sick.

Silage showing signs of mould. The mould makes aflatoxins.

Stop Aflatoxin poisoning with T5X



T5X is an **aflatoxin binder**. This means that when the cow eats the **T5X**, the aflatoxin in the cow binds to the **T5X** and is excreted by the cow.



By giving **T5X**, any aflatoxin ingested from the feed is removed from the cow.

Mix 100g **T5X** for every 100kg of feed - dairy meal or fodder.



Mix the **T5X** with dairy meal or fodder at the point of feeding.

Silage

Making silage is a good way to make sure you can feed your cows throughout the year.

1. Harvest for silage once the crop has flowered. If the crop is maize, harvest at the milky stage (when you press the cob you get milk).

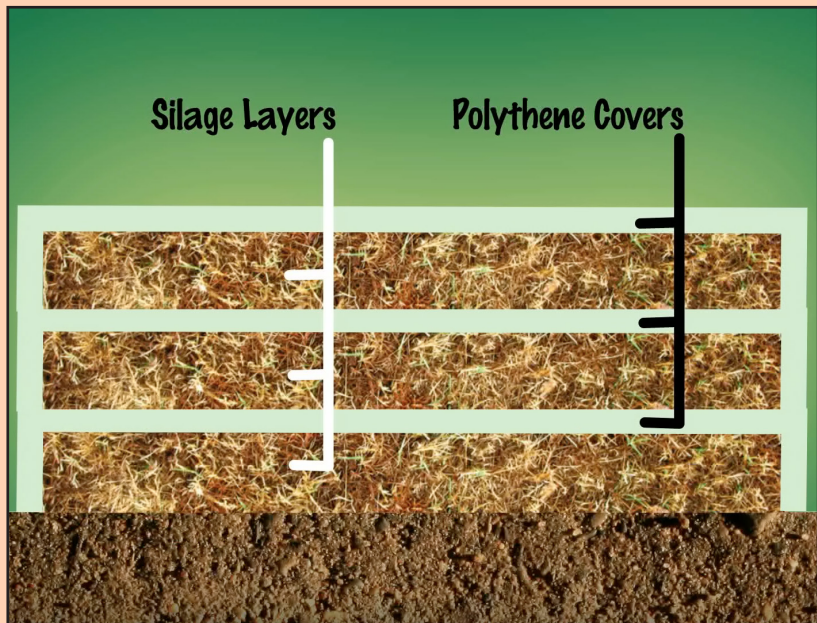
2. Allow the crop to wilt, then chop it up to 2-5cm pieces. To find out if it is ready for silage, pick up a handful. It should not leave water on your hand.

3. Bring the crop to your silage pit and compact it as much as possible.

The quality of silage gets worse every time you open it. To keep the quality throughout the year, store in layers. Put polythene cover in between the layers.

Mix hay and silage

Hay, particularly legume hay, contains high protein. It also has lots of fibre for good digestion. Silage has energy so your cow will give more milk. You cow will produce milk throughout the year if you feed it both hay and silage all year round.



For more information, SMS “COW” to 30606

Tomato Pests and Diseases

Bacterial Wilt



Bacterial Wilt is caused by a bacteria that lives in the soil. It can also come to your shamba from rain water run-off from other shambas.

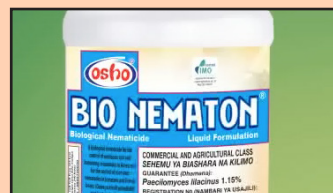
If your tomato plants have Bacterial Wilt, the plants are not strong enough to stand up. The young leaves wilt during hot weather. When the plant is badly affected, the leaves turn yellow. Bacterial Wilt will kill your plants if not treated.

Soil Nematodes

Nematodes are tiny worms that live in the soil. They are too small to see with just your eyes. They feed on your tomato plant roots. Your plants will become weak.

A soil test before planting will tell you if your soil has nematodes.

Kill nematodes with both **Bio Nematon** and **Nimbecidine**.



Bio Nematon kills adult nematodes.



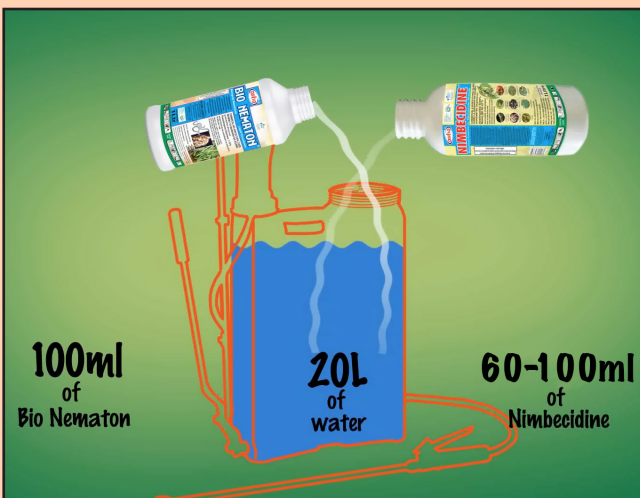
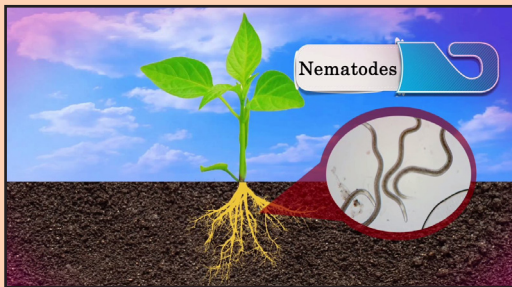
Nimbecidine stops nematode eggs from hatching. It also stops young nematodes from developing further.

Mix 60-100 ml **Nimbecidine** and 100 ml **Bio Nematon** with 20 litres of water in a knapsack. Drench the soil. Repeat every 3 months.

Always wear protective clothing when using chemicals. Wear gum boots, overalls, rubber gloves and a mask.

Other ways to prevent nematodes

- Rotate your crops, e.g. after tomatoes, plant a different crop, like beans. Beans add nitrogen to the soil.
- Make sure your shamba has good drainage.
- Do a soil test before planting. If it tells you that your soil has nematodes, treat the soil before planting.



Stop Bacterial Wilt from coming to your shamba with **Enrich BM**.

Mix 20g **Enrich BM** with 20 litres of water in a knapsack. This is enough for $\frac{1}{16}$ of an acre.

Spray:

- Once when the seedlings are still in the nursery
- Straight after transplanting your seedlings
- 1 month after transplanting
- 2 months after transplanting.



For more information, SMS “PESTS & DISEASES” to 30606

For more information, SMS "TRANSPORT" to 30606

Mitsubishi Fuso Canter Truck

The **Mitsubishi Fuso Canter Truck** from **Simba Corp** can be adapted to your needs. You can have it with the enclosed or open body or with the milk body, water tanker or even with tipper.

The Mitsubishi Fuso Canter Truck:

- Can carry from 2 - 5 tonnes
- Comfortable, spacious cabin
- Fuel efficient
- Performs very well in harsh terrain
- Durable and reliable
- Drives like a passenger car



Simba Corp has a wide network of branches and dealers for parts and services.

How do I afford a Mitsubishi Fuso?

Buy one as a group with your farmers group or Sacco. Share the cost and share the truck. You can also engage a bank for asset finance.

Call **Simba Corp** on 0703 046 000 or go into a **Simba Corp** branch where the sales team will assist you on the available options.

GeoPoll

For more information, SMS 70555

The world's largest real-time mobile survey platform, reaching a growing network of more than 8 Million subscribers in Kenya. **GeoPoll** enables organizations to gather quick, accurate and in-depth data insights on anything from consumer preferences to social and development concerns.

Produced by Mediae



Watch us on Citizen TV on:
Thursday 1.30pm (English)
Sunday 1.30pm (Kiswahili)

For another leaflet
or more information,
SMS 30606



www.coopers.co.ke
info.kenya@coopers.co.ke
+254 20 420 6000



www.dlight.com
info.kenya@dlight.com
+254 20 210 6793



www.ungagroup.com
information@unga.com
+254 719 065 222



www.seedcogroup.com
kassim.owino@agriseed.co.ke
+254 702 934 938



SMS: 70555



www.simbacorp.com
talk2us@simbacorp.com
+254 703 046 000



www.handinhand-ea.org
info@handinhand-ea.org
+254 703 960 766



www.mbeguchoice.com
info@agri-experience.com
+254 719 554 154



www.royalseed.biz
customerservice@khs.co.ke
+254 734 257 635



www.mavunofertilizers.com
info@mavunofertilizers.com
+254 702 891 893



www.cropnuts.com
support@cropnuts.com
+254 790 499 190



www.oshochem.com
marketing@oshochem.com
+254 711 045 000
SMS: 20560