

Series 7, Episode 12

Alexander and Ruth's Farm, Makueni, KENYA

This leaflet contains information on: MbeguChoice, planting trees, solar lights, energy-saving jikos



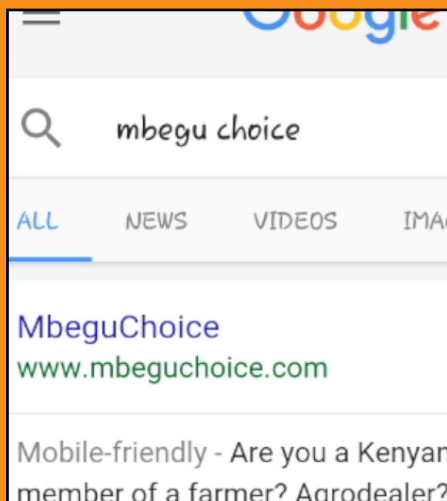
If undelivered, please return to The Mediae Company, PO Box 215-00502, Karen.

MbeguChoice

Different crop varieties grow well in different soils and climates. **MbeguChoice** is a smartphone app and website. It has information on seed varieties to help farmers choose the variety that will grow best on their shamba. It is also used by agrovets and extension officers.

For more information, SMS "MBEGUCHOICE" to 30606

How to use MbeguChoice



In which county in Kenya is your farm located?

Select county using drop down. ▼

Which ecological zone is your farm on?

Select ecological zone using drop do... ▼

Which crop are you looking for?

Select crop using drop down. ▼

GET RESULTS

Showing Results for **PIGEON PEA - Dryland to Mid Altitude Transitional - MAKUENI**

Showing 2 of 2 Results Found

Crop	PIGEON PEA
Variety	EGERTON MBAAZI M1
Type	TRUE BREEDING
Year of Release	2012
Commercializing Agents	FRESHCO KENYA LIMITED,LEDET LTD,FAIDA SEEDS

1. Go to www.mbeguchoice.com
2. Select your county, ecological zone, and crop, then Click 'GET RESULTS'
3. The results will show all the varieties that will grow well in your area. It will also give details of the varieties, such as if they are resistant to any diseases.

MORE SELECTION OPTIONS

Which maturity of the crop are you interested in? ? ☐ Extra Early ☐ Early ☐ Medium ☐ Late
(Check all that apply)

Which special characteristics of the crop are you interested in? ? ☐ Drought Tolerant ☐ Disease Tolerant / Resistant ☐ Storage and Field Pest Resistant ☐ Consumer Preferences
(Check all that apply)

Are you looking for a variety for long or short rains? ☐ SHORT ☐ LONG ☐ BOTH

Always plant certified seeds. They will germinate and grow well. Some are resistant to diseases.

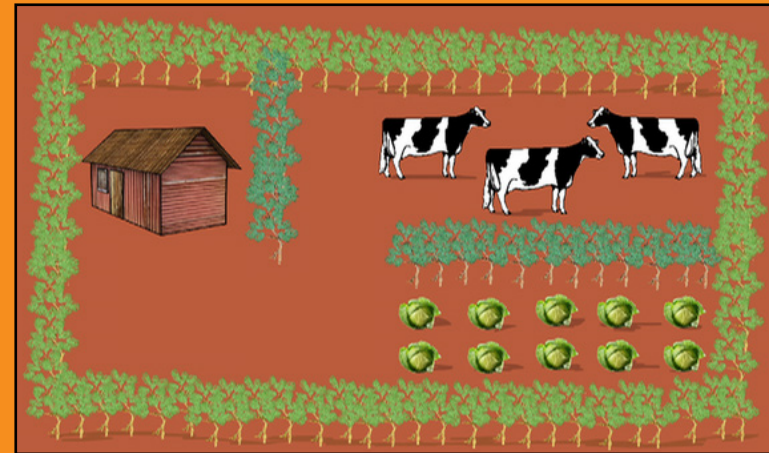
4. If you get lots of results, you can narrow them down. Select options such as maturity, special characteristics and growing season.

For more information, SMS "TREES" to 30606

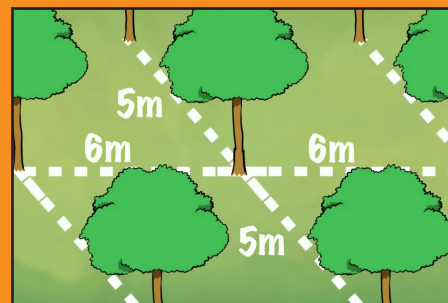
Planting Trees

Trees have many uses:

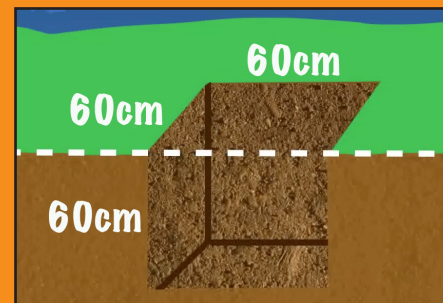
- They hold the soil together and stop erosion
- They break the wind
- They give your crops shade
- They provide firewood, timber and fencing
- They can mark the boundary of your shamba
- Some can be used for animal fodder
- Some give fruits which can be eaten or sold
- Tree seedlings can be sold for a good profit
- They look nice!



How to plant a Lemon Tree



1. Plant trees 5m by 6m apart.



2. Dig holes 60cm by 60cm by 60cm



3. Fill back the hole with top-soil/ manure mixture.



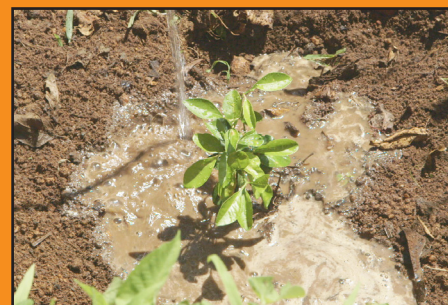
4. Take the outer plastic off the tree seedling.



5. Cut off the loose roots.



6. Plant the seedling.



7. Water the seedling. Once planted you will need to water it twice a day – morning and evening.



8. Put dried grass and leaves around the seedling. This will protect it from the sun, and stop weeds growing.

Selling nursery trees can be a good business. Grow the tree seedlings from seeds. Sell the seedlings when they reach 30 cm tall. Grow different types of trees, e.g. Calliandra for firewood and fodder, Grevillea for timber, and Lemon trees for fruits.

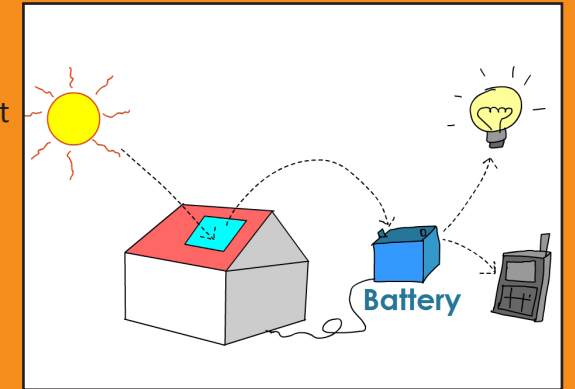
For more information, SMS "SOLAR" to 30606

Solar Lights

Kerosene lamps are bad for the health of you and your family. Kerosene is also expensive to buy.

A **solar energy system** uses light from the sun. It catches sunlight with a solar panel on your roof. The light is stored as electricity in a battery. The battery stores the electricity until you need it in the evening. The battery can be used to power lights and charge mobile phones.

Having a solar energy system in your home means that you can cook and work after dark. The children can do their homework



d.light D30 Solar Home System



Battery. Charge your mobile phone, radio and torch from the battery.

3 Lightbulbs. There are 2 brightness settings. On the low setting, you can have light for up to 8 hours. On the high setting you can have light for up to 6 hours.



Solar panel. This goes on your roof.



There is a **light switch** for each light. You can put these on the wall.



Keep up with the news in the evenings with the **radio**.



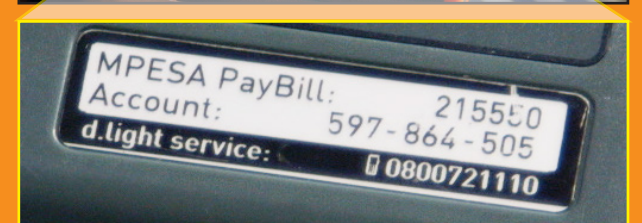
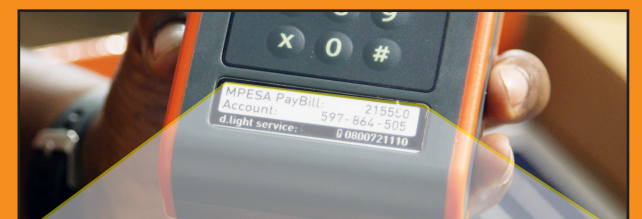
Use the **torch** when you check on your animals at night. It shines light for 200 metres.

How much does the D30 Solar Home System cost?

The **D30** system is affordable. You pay a deposit of 2,500/-. Then you do not pay anything for the first 7 days.

After 7 days, you pay 40/- per day for a year. You can pay by **MPESA**. The PayBill and Account Numbers are on the battery. Once you have paid for the system, your electricity is free!

The **D30** Solar Home System has a warranty of 2 years. If it stops working before 2 years, call **d.light** and they will replace it within 7 days.



Energy Saving Jikos

The **Envirofit SuperSaver** uses half the amount of charcoal as a normal jiko. It boils very quickly and is easy to light, clean, and simmer foods on. There is less smoke so the air in your kitchen will be cleaner.



Lights from underneath. The jiko is ready in less than 5 minutes after lighting.



Grips so you can use sufurias of different sizes.



Rubber handles so that you can carry the jiko when it is hot.



A **tray** catches the ash. To clean, open the door and empty the tray.



Control the heat with the **air vent**. Open the vent for fast boiling, like tea. Close the vent for slow cooking, like beans.

Keep your kitchen clean and tidy to reduce accidents and illness

Utensils left on the floor can be dangerous for children and animals. They are more difficult to keep clean when on the floor so you and your family can get sick.

Build shelves to keep your utensils on. You will easily be able to find the utensils you are looking for, and it is safer for your family.



Produced by Mediae



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

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or more information,
SMS 30606

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