



# Series 8, Episode 1

Cecily and Charles' Farm, Embu, KENYA

*This leaflet contains information on: planting maize, soil testing, fertilizer, pigs*

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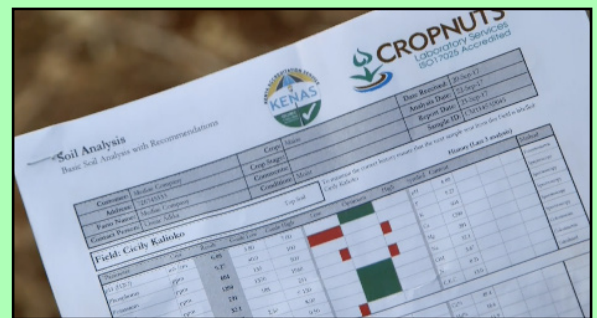
*For more information, SMS "SOIL" to 30606*

## Soil Testing

Before planting any crops, do a soil test. A soil test will tell you how fertile your soil is. It will also tell you how to make your soil better, such as which fertilizers to use and how much. **CropNuts** do soil tests.

**Page 1** of your soil test results tells you about the health of your soil. Green means that the levels are good. Red means that the levels are too high or too low.

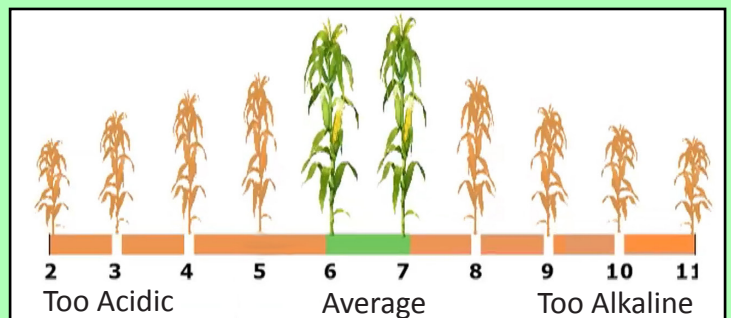
**Page 2** tells you what to do to make your soil better. It tells you which fertilizers to add, when to add them and how much.



## Acidic Soil

Your soil test results may tell you that your soil is **too acidic**. This is common in areas of high rainfall. When it rains, nutrients can be washed away.

Crops cannot take up nutrients if the soil is too acidic. They will not grow well. Acidity is measured in pH. **pH 1-4** is very acidic. **pH 10-14** is very alkaline. Maize grows best at pH 6-7.



If your soil is too acidic, add **lime** 2 weeks before planting. The amount of lime needed will depend on how acidic your soil is. Generally you need 1.2 tonnes of agricultural lime per acre to change the pH up by 1 point eg from pH 4 to pH 5.

It takes 6-12 months before the lime is fully taken up by the soil. Add lime every season until your soil pH is 6.

CropNuts recommends **Mavuno** fertilizers. They do not make your soil acidic like other brands.



# Planting Maize

## 'Double Dig'

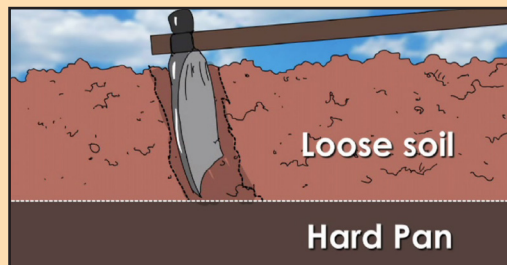
When preparing your land, '**double dig**'. This is when you dig your planting hole, then dig the same hole again so that you have a deeper hole. You will break through the **hard pan** and your roots will get more water when it rains.

**Do not** use a disc plough. Disc ploughs dig to the same depth and its weight cause compaction and hard pan of soil below it.

## 'Dry plant'

Plant the seed at least 10cm deep. This is so that the seed germinates when the proper rains start, and not when there is a light shower. If the seed germinates before the rains, it will rot and die.

If you dig to the same level over many years, you will get a **hard pan**. This is a hard layer of soil that roots and water cannot pass through.



Double digging will help to break the hard pan. Your loose soil should be **at least 30cm** deep.

## Which seeds?

Plant only certified seeds. 95-100% will germinate. You only need 1 seed per planting hole so you will use less seed. Certified seeds give high yields and are resistant to some diseases.



You will need 10kg of seed per acre.

Plant the right seeds for your area and get big cobs. **SeedCo.** makes different varieties of seeds for different areas. For dry areas, **Duma 43** and **Sungura 301** are good varieties.

## Duma 43

An early-maturing variety that copes well with drought. It is good for rain shadow areas.

- Matures in 90 days
- Tolerant to drought and heat stress
- Resistant to Maize Streak Virus (MSV) and other diseases
- Yields 28-32 bags per acre.



Best for: Eastern Province, Central Province, Nyanza, Upper Coast and Lower Western Province.

## Sungura 301

Grows well in the lowlands and in dry areas.

- Matures in 75 days
- Tolerant to drought and heat stress
- Is resistant to some diseases
- Yields 35 bags per acre.



Best for: Makueni, Tharaka and Lower Nyanza.

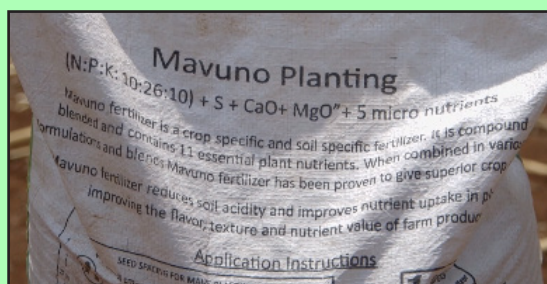


Buy **SeedCo.** seeds from agrovets. They are affordable. Each pack comes with a **guarantee card**. Call the number on the card to insure your crop for free.

# Fertilizers

Fertilizers are food for your crop. They help your crop to grow faster and stronger. Each crop takes nutrients (food) from the soil. Fertilizers replace these nutrients.

Different crops need different nutrients. **Mavuno** makes fertilizers for different crops, e.g. **Mavuno for Maize**. **Mavuno** fertilizers are designed for use in Kenyan soil. You can get a 30% increase in yield.



**Mavuno** fertilizers are **NPK** based. **Mavuno for Maize** contains N:P:K 10:26:10. This means that it has 10 parts Nitrogen (N) to 26 parts Phosphorous (P) to 10 parts Potassium (K).

They also contain:

**Secondary Nutrients** – e.g. Calcium, Magnesium and Sulphur.

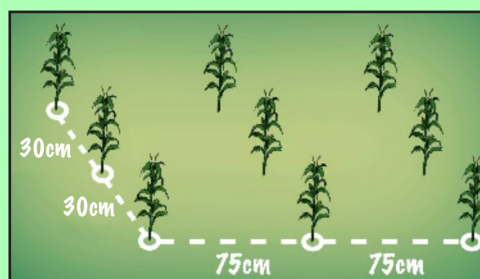
**Micronutrients** – e.g. Zinc, Boron, Copper, Molybdenum and Manganese.

Buy **Mavuno** fertilizers from agrovet. They come in different pack sizes.

You will need 75kg of fertilizer per acre.



## Planting your seeds



1. Dig planting holes 30cm apart, in rows 75cm apart. In dry areas, plant the rows 90cm apart

2. Put a bottle cap full of fertilizer in each planting hole. Cover it with soil. The seed must not touch the fertilizer. It will get burnt.

3. Plant the seed. Cover with soil.

Mark out your rows and lines with tape before you start. This will save you time later. Your planting holes will all be the correct distance apart.



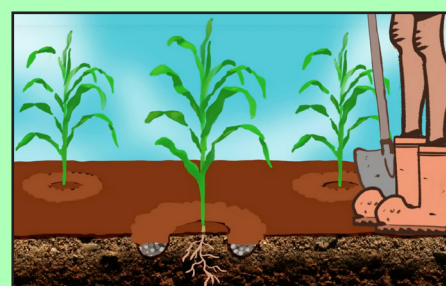
## Topdress with Mavuno Topdress when your crop is knee-high



1. Make a shallow ring around each plant about 15cm away from the plant.



2. Sprinkle 1 teaspoon of **Mavuno Topdress** inside the trench.

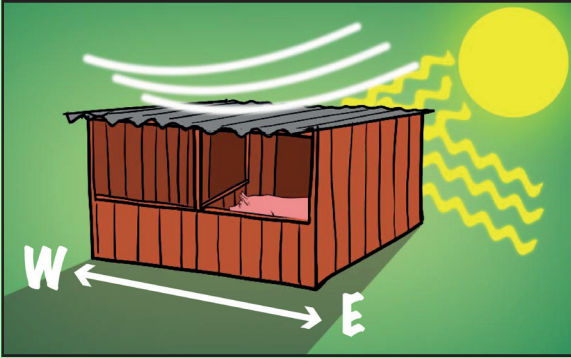


3. Cover the fertilizer with soil.

# Pigs

Pigs can be very profitable if you raise and feed them well. Sell pigs for meat or sell the piglets.

## Build a good pig house



- Build the pig house east to west. This blocks direct sunlight and wind.
- Put on a good roof to protect against wind and rain. Slant the roof so rainwater can run off. The roof must cover all of the pig house.
- Build a raised sloping floor.
- Have a half wall at the front of the house. This lets in air and sunlight.
- Make sure that you have a feed trough, a water trough and a resting area.

## Feeding your pigs

For the **first 7 days**, the piglets should suckle.

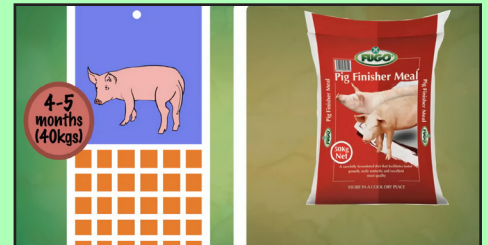
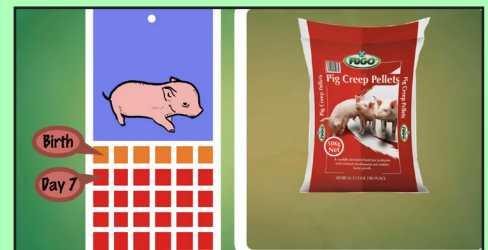
**From 7 days to 7 weeks**, give your piglets **Fugo Pig Creep Pellets**. Increase the quantity slowly from  $\frac{1}{4}$  kg to 1kg. Pig Creep pellets prepare the stomach for solid food after weaning. The piglet will grow faster. The piglet should still suckle.

**From 7 weeks until 4-5 months (40kg)**, give your pigs **Fugo Sow and Weaner Meal**. Give 1kg per day per pig to begin with. Mix with Pig Creep Pellets. Increase to 2.5kg over time (and decrease the pellets). Sow and Weaner Meal helps the internal organs to develop.

**From 40kg**, give your pigs **Pig Finisher Meal**. Give your pig 2.5kg per day. This helps your pig to put on weight. Your pig will have good meat quality and low back fat. By 6 months your pig will be about 70kg and ready for sale.



Mix **Sow and Weaner Meal** and **Pig Finisher Meal** with water. Mix  $\frac{1}{4}$  kg of feed with 1kg of water.



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