



Series 8, Episode 2

John and Martha's Farm, Kirinyaga, KENYA

This leaflet contains information on: cow parasites, melon pests, planting maize, fertilizers

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

For more information, SMS "PESTS" to 30606

Melon Pests

Aphids

Aphids are small green insects. They suck on the leaves of your melons.



1. First you see the aphids under the leaves.



2. Then the leaves look like they have a black powder.



3. Finally the leaves curl and die.

To treat

Mix 60ml of **Nimbecidine** and 3g of **Dynamo** in 20L of water. Stir well.

The **Nimbecidine** helps to keep aphids away after you have sprayed your melons.

When spraying, always wear protective clothing.



Melon Fly



You can see a small hole where the melon fly has laid its eggs.

Melon flies lay their eggs in young melon fruits. The fruits will rot or be deformed. You will not get a good yield.



1. Put 20 - 30ml of **Nimbecidine** in an empty container. Add 20L of water and stir.
2. Add 50ml of **Oshothion**. Stir.
3. Spray your crop early in the morning or late in the afternoon when it is cool.

After spraying, do not harvest your melons for at least 7 days.

Cow Parasites Worms

Cows easily pick up worms. Signs that your cow has worms:



Rough fur



Fur falling out



Watery eyes

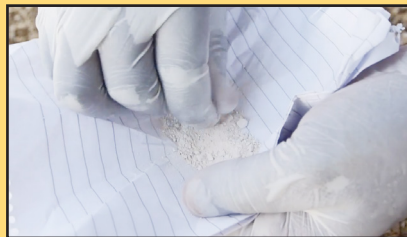


Pot belly

How to de-worm your cow

De-worm your cow once a month, from 1 month until 6 months. The dosage is based on the weight of your cow. Use a **weighband**.

Use **Nilzan** or **Nefluk** for deworming. Change the dewormer every 3 months. This stops the cow becoming resistant to the medicine. Dewormers can either be in liquid form or tablets. When using tablets prepare as shown below:



1. Crush the correct amount of tablet to a fine powder.



2. Mix the powder into a cup of water. Shake.



3. Pour the mixture into a syringe. You must use the medicine within 10 minutes of mixing.



4. Put your thumb in the gap where there are no teeth. Scratch the tongue. Place the syringe in the gap on the other side. Give the medicine.

Using a Weighband



1. Pass the tape around the cow, just behind the front legs.



2. Where the tape meets, slide 2 fingers underneath. Where the tapes cross is the weight of your cow. This cow weighs 89 kg.

Planting Maize



'Green market' maize is when the farmers harvest the cobs whilst they are still green. The cobs are sold for roasting or boiling.

Seed Co. sell seeds for different areas and conditions. Plant the right seeds for your area for a good harvest. 1 packet has around 7,000 seeds. This is enough for ½ acre.

Duma 43

Can do well without irrigation.

- Matures in 90 days
- Tolerant to drought and heat stress
- Resistant to Maize Streak Virus (MSV)
- Yields 20-30 bags per acre.



Sungura 301

Matures early. Very sweet. Stovers are good for feeding to livestock.

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



Punda Milia 529

Good for medium altitudes and areas where coffee grows well. Gives big cobs.

- Matures in 120 days
- Tolerant to common maize diseases
- Copes well in drought
- Yields 30-40 bags per acre.



Plant maize in straight lines

You will fit in up to 20,000 plants per acre. Make lines 2 ½ feet apart. You can measure with your hands. 1 hand is about ½ foot. So 2 ½ feet is 5 hands.



Use string to mark lines. Dig holes walking backwards. This is so you do not step in holes that you have already dug. Dig holes 1 foot apart.

Put 1 handful (or ½ kg if you have lots) of well-rotted manure in each hole. Mix the manure with soil at the bottom of the hole.

If the manure is on the top of the soil, there will be more roots growing on the surface. The plant will be unstable and the yield low.

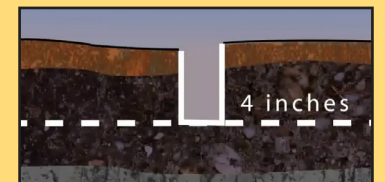
Add 1 bottle top of **Mavuno Planting Fertilizer** per hole. The fertiliser must not touch the seed.

Plant 1 seed per hole.

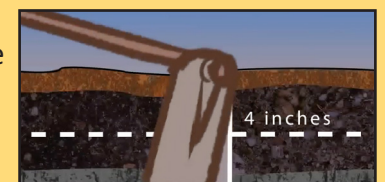
Double dig to make sure that:

- the hard pan breaks
- there is enough soil to hold water and nutrients
- there is space for roots to grow.

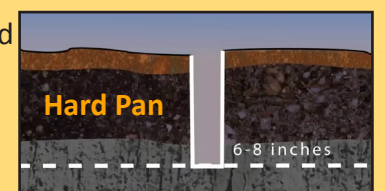
1. Dig the first hole. It should be about 4 inches deep.



2. Dig the same hole again.



3. The 2nd dig should break through the hard pan to 6-8 inches.



Ticks, Flies and Fleas

Ticks, flies and fleas carry many diseases.

Spray your cow every 7 days.

Alternate **Triatix** and **Grenade** every 3 months to stop resistance.



Fertilizers

Add fertilizers to your soil to make it better. Used correctly, fertilizers can improve your yield. Do a soil test. A soil test will tell you how good your soil is. It will also tell you how to improve it.

CropNuts do soil tests. The results have 2 pages:

Page 1: 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.

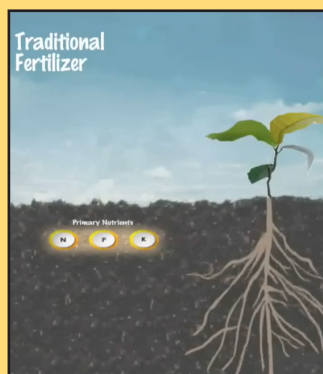
Mavuno Fertilizers

Mavuno makes fertilizers for different crops. **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). It also contains:

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

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

All of the nutrients are needed to get a good yield. **Calcium** makes the soil less acidic and gives the maize a longer shelf life. **Boron** improves the quality of the cobs.



Traditional fertilizers only contain Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium.

The secondary and micronutrients that **Mavuno** fertilizers contain will make a big difference to your crop.

You will need 75kg per acre of **Mavuno** planting fertilizer.

Buy **Mavuno** fertilizer from agrovet. It comes in different pack sizes: 1 kg, 10 kg, 12.5 kg, 25 kg and 50 kg.

Produced by Mediae



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