



Series 8, Episode 4

Cecily Njeru's Farm, Makueni, KENYA

This leaflet contains information on: cow parasites, coffee, planting potatoes, dairy hygiene, fake seeds

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

For more information, SMS "FERTILIZER" to 30606

Coffee

A soil test will tell you if your soil is good for growing coffee. The first page of the soil test results will look.

Customer:	Mediae Company	Comments:	Dry					
Address:	726745333	Condition:	Dry					
Farm Name:	Mediae Company							
Contact Person:	Oscar Adika							
Field:	Cecily Njeri-Embu							
		Top Soil						
		Low	Optimum					
			High					
Parameter	Unit	Result	Guide Low	Guide High				pH
pH (H ₂ O)	mS/cm	5.61	5.80	7.00				EC/S
*EC (Salts)	uS/cm	61.3	40.0	< 800				P
Phosphorus	ppm	212	140	1740				K
Potassium	ppm	1070	1400	223				C
Calcium	ppm	212	167	200				
Magnesium	ppm	14.2	10.0	< 134				
Sulphur	ppm	33.3	30.0	300				
*Sodium	ppm	94.7	20.0	2.00				
Iron	ppm	288	0.80	10.0				
Manganese	ppm	0.58	1.50	20.0				
Boron	ppm	3.96	2.00	30.0				
Copper	ppm	11.6	15.0	0.50				
	ppm	11.6	0.20	8.00				
	/100g	8.34	50	50				

The **pH** here is low. The best pH for coffee is pH 6.1. If the pH is too low the crop cannot take up all of the nutrients that it needs.

Phosphorous is very low. Phosphorous helps root development.

Potassium is good. Potassium helps berries to mature. It also balances the water content of the berries so that they are good quality.

Calcium is low. Calcium reduces soil acidity. It improves quality and shelf life of the coffee.

Boron is low. Boron is needed for good berry size and quality.

Mavuno makes crop-specific fertilizers. **Mavuno for Coffee** contains **NPK** (Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium); **Secondary Nutrients** (Calcium, Magnesium and Sulphur) and **Micronutrients** (Zinc, Boron, Copper, Molybdenum, Manganese).

Applying Mavuno for Coffee fertilizer

Apply fertilizer 2 times in the year. In April and October.



1. Dig a shallow trench, about 5cm deep, around the coffee tree. Use the furthest canopy of the tree as a guide. This is where the roots reach.
2. Apply 250 g of **Mavuno for Coffee** fertilizer inside the trench.
3. Mix the fertilizer with the soil, inside the trench.
4. Cover with the rest of the soil.

Do not leave the fertilizer uncovered. Sunlight can stop it from working.

For more information, SMS “POTATOES” to 30606

Planting Potatoes

Always buy certified seed potatoes. They germinate better, have a higher yield, and are resistant to some diseases like Bacterial Wilt.

Speed up germination with *Tivag*

Using *Tivag*, your seeds should germinate in 7-14 days.



1. Mix 20ml *Tivag* with 20L of water.
2. Spray the seed potatoes evenly. Leave overnight. Plant the next day.

Plant your potatoes



Plant your potatoes in full sun. Plant in fertile well-drained soil. Break up large clumps of earth. Remove weeds.



Spread well-rotted manure or compost on top of the soil. Mix the fertilizer and soil with a hoe.



Make planting lines by forming ridges 75cm apart. To do this, dig a trench on either side of the planting lines 20cm deep. These trenches will trap water close to the potatoes.



Plant the potatoes 30cm apart along the ridges. Use a stick to help you measure. Plant each potato 5cm below the surface. Make sure the shoots are facing upwards. Cover with soil.

Stop weeds before they grow

Weeds take water and nutrients away from your crop. You can use a herbicide like *Linagan* to stop weeds growing. You will spend less time weeding. *Linagan* should be applied before potato shoots come out of the ground.



You will need 500g of *Linagan* per acre. You only need to apply it once per season.



Mix 100g *Linagan* with 20L of water.

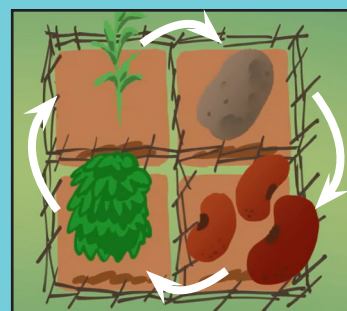


Spray close to the ground, from side to side. Spray until the ground is evenly drenched.

Always wear protective gear when using chemicals. Chemicals are bad for your health.

Rotate crops

You will get more pests and diseases. The crop will not grow as well. Do not plant potatoes in an area where potato or potato family crops like tomatoes, capsicum, black nightshade have been growing in the last 2 years.



Rotate your potatoes with maize or beans. Beans add nitrogen to the soil.

For more information, SMS “DAIRY” to 30606

Dairy Hygiene

Bad bacteria is found in cow dung and in places with poor hygiene. It can give your cow **Mastitis**.

Clean your cow shed

1. **Remove cow dung.** Use lots of water.



Cow dung contains bacteria. The bacteria can give your cow **Mastitis**.

2. **Spread sawdust** to keep your cow comfortable.



3. **Disinfect** the cow shed.



Mix 20ml of *Kupacide* in 20L of water. Spray the entire cow shed. Do not forget the sleeping area.

Mastitis

Your cow can get Mastitis from bacteria that enter the udder through the teat. Mastitis is expensive to treat. You cannot sell milk from a cow that has Mastitis.

Symptoms of Mastitis:

Swollen Udder

Udder feels hot

Clots in the milk

To prevent Mastitis

Clean the udder well before milking

Use clean warm water and a very clean cloth. Use a different cloth for each cow. After milking, dry the udder and teats well with a clean dry cloth.



Use a milking salve to soften the teats.

Use before milking. You can put the salve straight onto the teats, or rub it into your hands first.



To milk, hold the teat by the whole hand with thumb and forefinger around the top of the teat and gently slide them down without pulling on the teat.



Do not pull the teats as you may cause internal bleeding.

After milking, the teats take 15 minutes to close. Keep your cow standing up. If the cow lies down, bacteria can get into the teats and cause Mastitis.

To clean the teats and remove any bacteria that might infect the udder, use a **teat dip cup** with Mastrite.



1. Mix 5ml of *Mastrite* with 10ml of water in a **teat dip cup**.

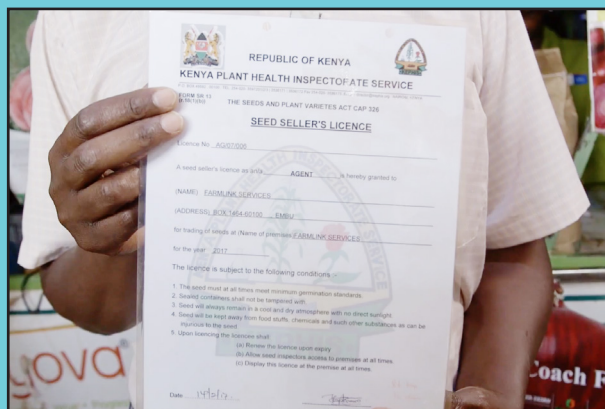


2. Squeeze the container to send the mixture into the teat dip cup.



3. Dip the teats.

Fake Seeds



Fake seeds will not grow well. You will waste your money. Only buy **certified seeds**.

Use a KEPHIS-certified agrovet

Buy your certified seeds from agroverts licensed by **KEPHIS**. These agroverts know how to transport and store seeds properly.

KEPHIS-licensed agroverts display a 'Seed Seller's Licence'. Check the licence. Check the date. The licence must be renewed every year.

Check how seeds are stored

Ask the agrovet owner how the seeds are stored. They should not be stored on the floor. They should be stored on shelves or raised pallets.



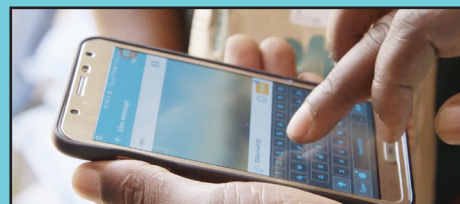
Check if the seeds are real



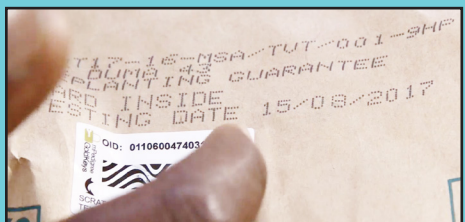
1. **SeedCo** seeds have a sticker on the packet.



2. Rub the sticker with a coin to reveal a code.



3. Text the code to **KALRO**. The number is on the seed packet. You will get an SMS telling you if the seeds are real or fake.



Check the expiry date

Seeds expire. Check the packing date before you buy them.

Ask for a receipt

Always ask for a receipt when you buy seeds. This is so you can return them if they are bad.

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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