

# Series 6, Episode 18

Abraham's Farm, Elgeyo Marakwet, KENYA.

*This leaflet contains information on: using fertilisers for potatoes, healthy tomatoes, Kenbro chickens, getting a loan, solar lights*

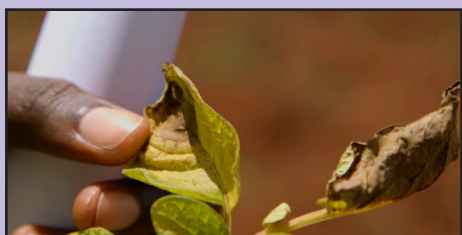


If undelivered, please return to The Mediae Company, PO Box 215-00502, Karen.

## Using Fertilisers for Healthy Potato Plants

You need healthy soil for healthy potato plants. If your potato plants do not look good, they may be missing nutrients. A soil test will tell you which fertilisers to use, how much to use and when to use them.

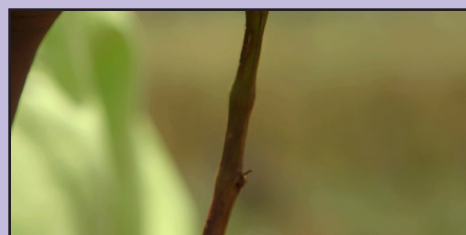
By using fertilisers correctly, you can get a bigger crop. This means more money!



Yellow leaves = Nitrogen deficiency



Premature Shedding of leaves; Phosphorous deficiency



Thin Stem = Phosphorous deficiency



Brown patches = Magnesium deficiency

### Soil Acidity

If your soil is too acidic (low pH), the plants cannot use nutrients like **Phosphorus**, even if it is in the soil.

Apply **lime** 1 month before planting to reduce soil acidity.

**Do not use DAP.** It makes the soil more acidic.

## What is in a NPK fertiliser?



**Nitrogen (N)** – for leaf growth  
**Phosphorus (P)** – for healthy roots and shoots  
**Potassium (K)** – for flowers and fruits

**Other nutrients, like Calcium, Magnesium, Sulphur, and Iron.** These help the plant to be healthier and grow faster.



Potatoes need Potassium to make big tubers.

Try **MEA 16:8:22 + T.E.** It contains Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium, as well as Magnesium Oxide and Sulphur.

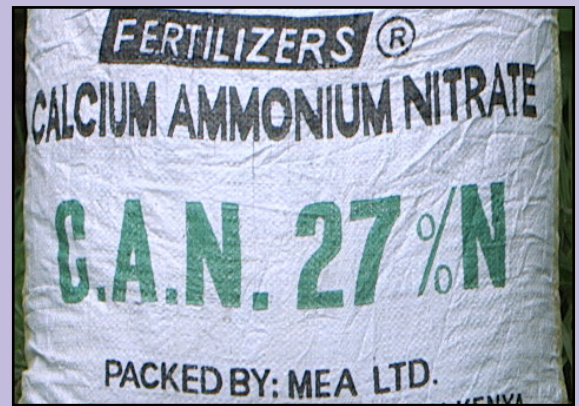
For more information, SMS "POTATOES" to 30606

## Healthy Tomato Plants

Look after your tomato plants to get a good crop. Manage your crop well and you can harvest tomatoes for 7 months.

**Topdress** each plant with 1 tablespoon **CAN** every 14 days. Water well. Mix **plant residue** into the soil, like your maize crop waste. It will add nutrients.

When your tomato crop is over, plant **onions**. Onions will help to clean up the soil. They stop nematodes. They also protect the soil from a build up of Bacterial Wilts.



## Blossom End Rot

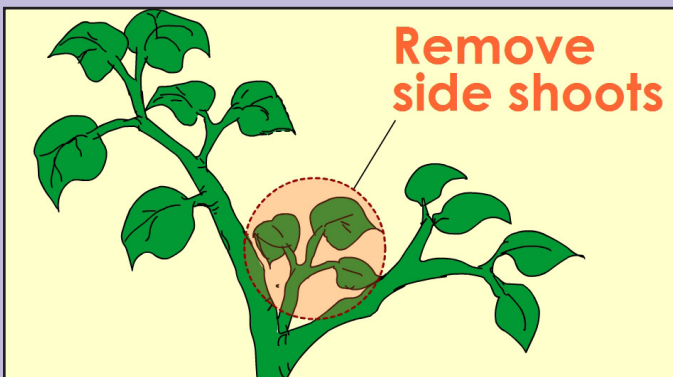


If your tomato plant does not get enough calcium, it will get **Blossom End Rot**.

Apply Osho's **Easy Gro Calcium** as a foliar spray. Mix a 40g packet of Easy Gro Calcium with 20 litres of water in a knapsack. Spray plants every 2 weeks.

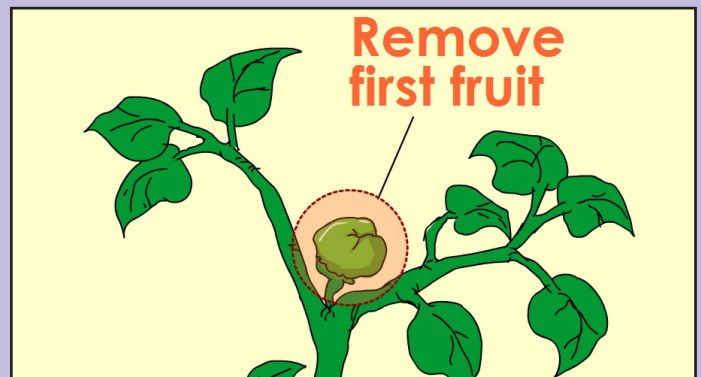


## De-Sucker your Tomatoes



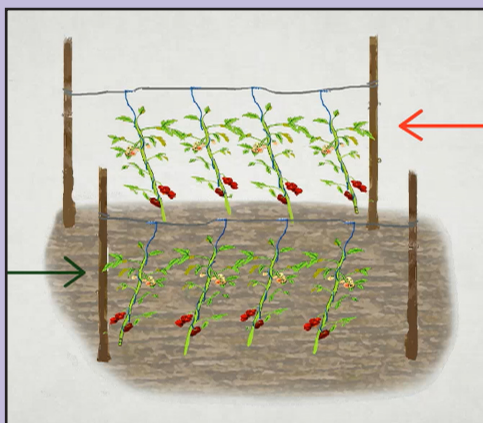
Take off side shoots (suckers).  
Leave 2 shoots on each plant.  
Take off old leaves and leaves with diseases.

## Take off the First Fruit



Take off the first fruits when the plant is small.  
The plant will grow better and have bigger fruits.

## Stake your Tomato Plants



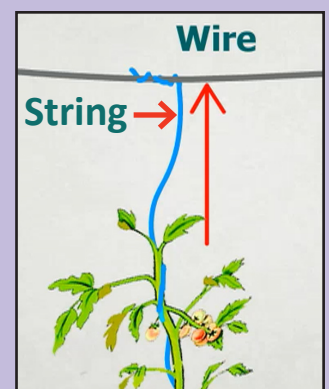
*Lean rows in opposite directions for easy harvesting and good air flow.*

This helps you take good care of your plants and makes harvesting easier.

Staking is done by having a wire between 2 wooden poles. Make sure the wire is taller than the plants (about 5 feet to 6 feet high).

Lean one row of tomatoes one way, then lean the next row of tomatoes the other way. A string is used to hold the Tomato plant. When the plant gets to the wire, it is layered along it. The plant will not become very tall.

Layering also lets air flow between plants. Good air flow reduces fungal diseases like Powdery mildew.



# Kenbro Chickens

Keep Kenbro chickens instead of Kienyeji chickens.



- Good for both **eggs and meat**.
- **Lay early** – at 4.5 months.
- **Lay eggs for up to 2 years**.
- **80 out of 100 chickens give eggs at any one time.** (30 out of 100 in Kienyeji chickens)
- **Grow fast** - ready for eating or sale after 10-14 weeks.
- **Free-range**. They spend all day outside and find their own food. They need less chicken feed so cost less money to keep.
- Do not get diseases easily.
- Tasty meat.

## Be in both the eggs and meat business

When you buy Kenbro chickens from Kenchic, you get a mix of females and males. Use females for eggs and males for meat.

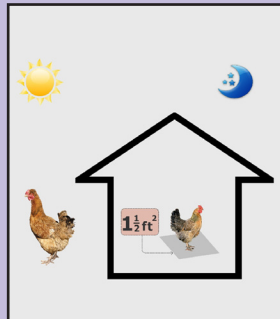
Males can fertilise the eggs. You will get more chickens.

## Make sure your chicken house is big enough

Kenbro chickens are outside in the day but sleep inside at night.

Each Kenbro layer needs **1.5 square feet** of space inside the house.

Keep the area around your chicken house clean and tidy. This keeps your chickens safe.



## Make more money with Kenbro chickens

Sell 1 Kienyeji chicken at 1.5kg for 700/- after 1 year.

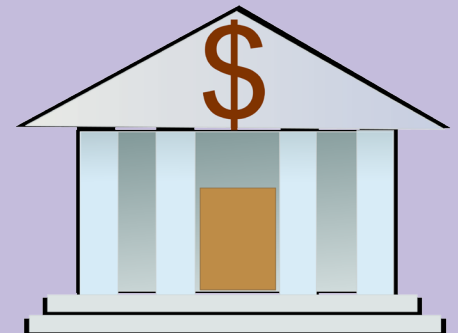
A **Kenbro chicken** gets to 1.5kg in 6-8 weeks. This means that you can make the same money faster. You can sell chickens many times in a year.

## Getting a Loan

Many farmers prefer to save money. There is less risk. Some farmers find saving hard. They do not save regularly, or they spend their savings on something else.

Before you get a loan, go to different institutions like banks or SACCOs. Choose a loan with a low interest rate.

DO NOT take a loan if the bank gets more money in interest than you get profit. It is better to save. Loans can help you grow your business. You have to pay them back within an agreed time. You also have to pay interest. This means that you have to pay back more than you borrowed.



## Making a Business Plan

You need a **business plan** to get a loan. It shows that you will make enough money to pay back the loan. It also shows you will make enough **profit** to grow your business.

You can go to the Ministry of Agriculture and ask for help with your business plan.

For a chicken farming business plan, include:

**EXPENSES:** housing, feeds, vaccinations, lights, chicks, labour, paying back the loan.

**INCOME:** sale of eggs and/or chickens.

**INCOME – EXPENSES = PROFIT**

Look at how much money you will make over 6 months. Look at your expenses for 6 months. You need to have more income than expenses to make a profit.

### Remember:

**Keep good records.** The bank may want to see them. Records also show you are serious about running a good business.

**Have other incomes,** e.g. grow vegetables or keep a dairy cow. If your chicken business goes wrong, you can still pay back the loan.



# Solar Lights

It costs a lot to light your home with kerosene lamps. Kerosene is bad for your health. Solar lights use energy from the sun to power lights. The lights are bright and there are no bad fumes.

**d.light** do a **Solar Home System** which comes with:

- A solar panel
- 3 lights
- A radio
- A torch

**d.light** products come with a **2 year warranty**. If the product stops working within 2 years of buying it, **d.light** will replace it for free. Just call **d.light** on 0800 721 110 or send a free sms to 21555.

## Paying for a d.light system

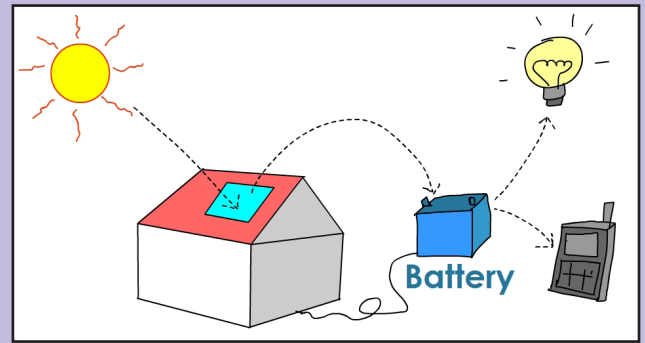
To buy a **d.light** Solar Home System, you pay a deposit of 2,500/-. You have 1 year to pay the rest (14,560/-).

## Pay by M-PESA

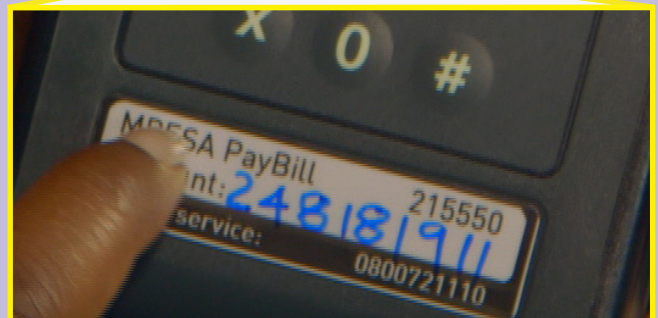
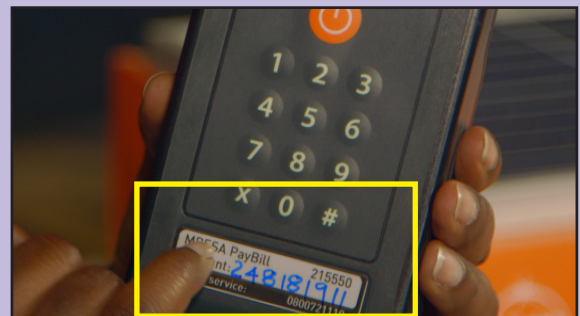


You should look on your battery to get the account number. When you pay you will get a number on your phone. Put this number into the battery to get your Solar Home System to work.

After you pay the deposit, your solar home system will work for 7 days. Then you need to top up with MPESA. You can pay daily, weekly or monthly: 40/- per day OR 280/- per week OR 1,200/- per month.



A solar panel on your roof catches the sun's energy. The energy is stored in a battery. The battery can power lights, a radio, and even charge a torch and your phone.



The MPESA PayBill number and your account number are on the battery.

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

For another leaflet  
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SMS 30606

