

How to grow soyabean



Issued by the Clinton Development Initiative, Malawi - February 2015

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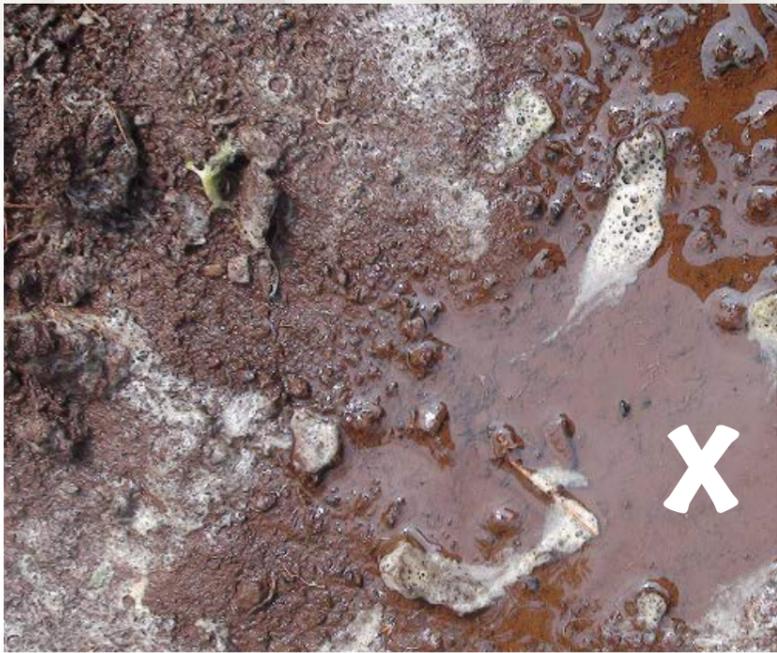
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The logo for the Africa Soil Health Consortium, featuring a stylized map of Africa in green and orange.

Land preparation



Select fertile to moderately fertile land, with no waterlogging. Roots will not grow in waterlogged soil.



Clear the field, plough and harrow the field to create a uniform seedbed. Then make ridges 50-60 cm apart.



Plant at the beginning of the rainy season. Plant improved varieties. Use certified seed every season, or 1st crop from certified seed can provide seed for 2nd crop, and 2nd crop for 3rd crop.

NOTE: Do not use seed from 3rd crop.

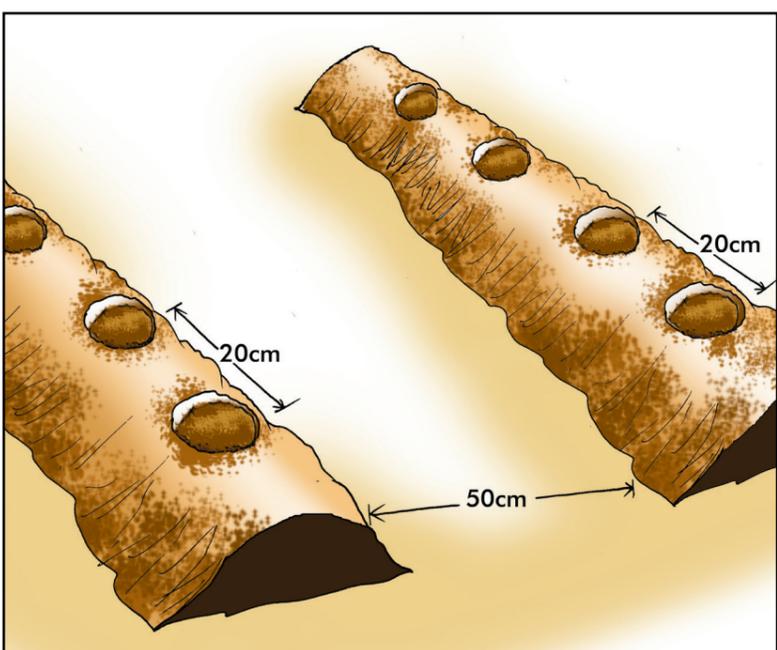
Planting



Test the seed for germination. Plant 30 seeds. If at least 25 germinate, then the seed is good to plant.



Inoculate your seed under the shade. Keep inoculated seed under the shade before planting, and plant on the same day the seed is inoculated.



If planting on ridges, space planting holes (planting stations) at 20-30 cm on the ridge. Plant 4-6 inoculated seeds in each station and cover.

Applying fertilizer

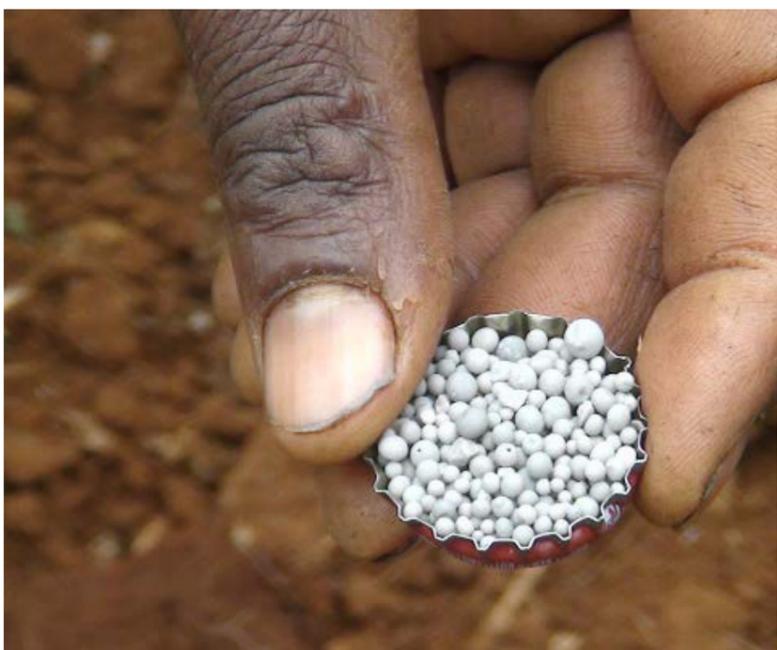


Soybean can fix its own nitrogen, and therefore you do not need to apply nitrogen fertilizer like urea or ammonium nitrate.



Soon after germination, make holes between soybean stations, place basal fertilizer and cover. The basal fertilizer should have both phosphorus and potassium.

For example “D” or “Super D” compound fertilizer at 80-100 kg/acre (200-250 kg/ha). That is about one soda bottle top per hole if planting on the furrow.



If using NPK 23:21:0, apply 50-100 kg/ha.

NOTE: *If you do not have fertilizer, preferably grow soybean following maize that had been applied fertilizer containing phosphorus.*

Management



Fill any gaps with inoculated seed within first week of emergence.

Weed early and keep the fields free of weeds.



If crop is grown for seed, uproot plants that look different (roguing).

Use *Karate* or *Cypermethrin* for leaf rollers and leaf eaters. If soya rust is a problem, plant resistant varieties for your area or apply *Folicur* to control. If all leaves are affected, do not spray.



Seek advice from your local extension worker on how to mix and spray these chemicals.

Harvesting



Harvest early when nearly all pods are brown and dry, and seeds are loose in the pods.

NOTE: If the pods are left in the field and dry too much, they will shatter and grain will be lost.



Dry harvested crop for 3-4 days in the open sun and protect it from the rain.

Thresh on a tarpaulin. If crop is for seed, thresh gently e.g. by hitting plants on the ground instead of hitting with sticks.

Storage



Winnow and then sort to ensure that the grain is not contaminated with foreign materials, diseased and grain and grains of other varieties.



Re-dry to a moisture content of 12-13%. Bite or pinch grain with your finger nails. If the seeds bend, the moisture content is above 12-13%. If the seeds break or crack, the moisture content is 12-13% or below and the seed can be stored.



Put clean, dry grains in clean bags. Do not reuse fertilizer, pesticide or other chemical bags. Store soyabean grain in a cool, dry and ventilated place on wooden pallets.