

market place

NEW CABBAGE VARIETY EARNS BIG

Farmers have been advised to take advantage of the current rains and plant high yielding vegetables such as Queen F1 variety of cabbages **CHRISTINE KATENDE**

Smallholder farmers can earn up to Shs5.8m in 85 days by growing Queen F1 high yielding cabbage variety.

With good agronomic practices Queen F1 variety can yield 30 tonnes per acre. This variety is therefore the most ideal type of vegetable for a farmer who wants to make money over short period with less production costs.

According to Simlaw Seeds Company which has over time released several hybrid cabbage seeds on the East African market, the variety can easily out compete other varieties in specific market segments due to its superior and reliable qualities.

Queen F1 is widely adaptable to cool and warm climatic zones. It



A garden of cabbage in its early stages FILE PHOTO

80

KILOGRAMMES OF ORGANIC FERTILISER RECOMMENDED PER ACRE

is also highly tolerant to black rot disease and bursting. Upon maturity, a single cabbage can weigh about five kilogrammes.

Seed requirement

About 200grammes of the seed is required to plant on one acre. Farmers can obtain the seeds from certified agro vets within their area of jurisdiction. The seedling can be raised on a nursery bed or seed trays for about four weeks before being transplanted. Before transplanting, seedlings should be hardened off to prepare them to cope with field conditions.

QUICK TIPS FOR GROWING CABBAGE

Start seeds indoors

With some plants, you can plant their seeds outside. If you are hoping to grow great cabbages, it is usually a better idea to start their seeds inside then transplant them outside.

Provide nitrogen-rich soil

Cabbages love nitrogen. To give them the best chance at success, plant them in soil

Spacing

Recommended spacing for this variety is 60 by 60centimetres. In this stage, to ward off attacks by soil and sucking pests, the plant should be drenched in Actara pesticide.

Growth requirements

Cabbage is a cool season crop which requires an optimum growth temperature range of 15- 20 degrees Celsius. It requires adequate well distributed rainfall. Moisture levels are especially critical during the early stage of the



crop growth. If the levels are low, irrigation should be used to supplement and relieve the moisture stress.

Eighty kilogrammes of fertiliser is recommended per acre but farmers intending to use farmyard manure need up to five tonnes per acre.

Pests and diseases

This type of cabbage is susceptible to attack by aphids which can be controlled by using karate pesticide or duduthrin. For diamondback moth pest, use delphin. It is also vital to practice crop rotation sanitation practices.

Watering cabbage

Cabbages are heavy feeders and need plenty of food to grow. Without enough water, the heads will dry out and taste bitter, so fertilising and watering the plants is important. Keep the water pressure

low to avoid washing away the soil around the plants. Water the base of the plant and not the head, as this might encourage pests and diseases. Water the cabbages in the morning so the excess water on the leaves evaporates during the day.

Fertilising cabbage

Cabbage plants need fertiliser throughout the growing season. Apply fertiliser several days before sowing or planting. This is known as "basal dressing".

Mix the fertiliser with the topsoil so that nutrients are available for the young growing plants. Use fertiliser with a high phosphorus content for root development, protein and chlorophyll formation. Side dressing places fertiliser to the side of the plant.

The most important nutrient at this stage is nitrogen.

Prices

Annet Nambi a vegetable trader in Nakawa market says the cabbages are very profitable with a big one selling between Shs1,000 and Shs2000.

Check before you harvest

Just because your cabbage has grown a large head does not mean it is ready to harvest just yet. If you have been working to grow great cabbages, do not throw away your hard work by harvesting too early. Instead, give each cabbage head a squeeze.

TuTrade
170 tonnes of soyabean and 30 tonnes of Pigeon peas on sale.
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SAMPLE BROILER FORMULA

INGREDIENT	STARTER	FINISHER
Maize Bran	50Kg	50Kg
Broken Maize	50Kg	50Kg
Fish Meal	25Kg	21Kg
Cotton seed cake	28Kg	25Kg
Shell/Limestone	9Kg	9Kg
Bavorite Extra	5kg	5kg

OR USE 5kg Bavorite Extra in every 100Kg maize Bran for Other Formulas (30Kg per ton Finished Feed)

Added: Cocktail Enzymes, Protein Optimisers, Liver Tonic, Probiotics, Prebiotics, Salt, A. Annuu, Extracts, High Grade Vitamins Trace Elements, Mycotoxin Binder, Anticaking Agent, Amino Acids



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SAMPLE LAYERS FORMULA

INGREDIENT	CHICK/ STARTER	GROWERS	LAYERS
Maize Bran	100Kg	100Kg	100Kg
Broken Maize	15Kg	13Kg	17
Fish Meal	23Kg	15Kg	21
Sunflower Cake	7Kg	6Kg	9Kg
Shell/Limestone	6Kg	7Kg	21Kg
Bavorite Extra	5kg	5kg	5kg

NOTE
Old generation bavorite has been phased out. Bavorite extra contains all the feed additives a farmer needs

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