

Advisory Bulletin

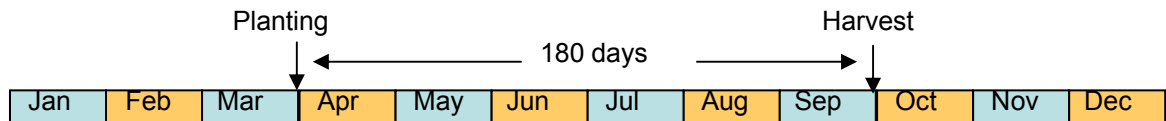
Which Maize Variety?

There are many new commercially-available maize varieties on the market. This bulletin gives a few guidelines for farmers on which variety to select for their farms.

Selection according to cropping strategy (1 or 2 crops per year)

1 crop per year

Late-maturing varieties are suitable for high altitude regions which have well-distributed rainfall over a long growing season. These varieties which take over 6 months to mature have a higher yield potential than earlier-maturing varieties. However, because they take so long to mature, there is insufficient time to grow a second maize crop.



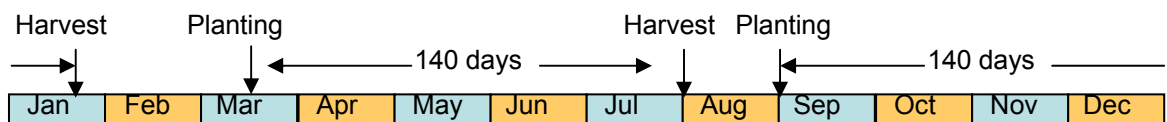
Late-maturing varieties

Variety	Company	Days to maturity
H614, H629, H6210, H6213, H9401	Kenya Seed Co	180-240
PAN691	Pannar Seed Co.	180-210
WH699	Western Seed Co.	150-180
FS650	Faida Seed Co.	150-210
KH600-11D	Freshco	160-200



2 crops per year

Medium-maturing varieties are more suitable for mid- to high-altitudes which have a bi-modally distributed rainfall to permit two well-defined growing seasons. In these regions, varieties should be chosen which mature earlier enough to allow for land preparation and planting of the second crop following harvest of the first crop.



Medium-maturing varieties

Variety	Company	Days to maturity
H513, H515, H516	Kenya Seed Co	120-180
PAN67, PAN5243	Pannar Seed Co.	135-165
WH403, WH502, WH504, WH505	Western Seed Co.	135-165
DK8031, DK8053, DK8071	Monsanto	120-180
Simba61, Duma41, Duma43	Seedco	100-140
Phb3253, Phb30G97, Phb30H83	Pioneer	120-150
KH500-21A	Freshco	120-140

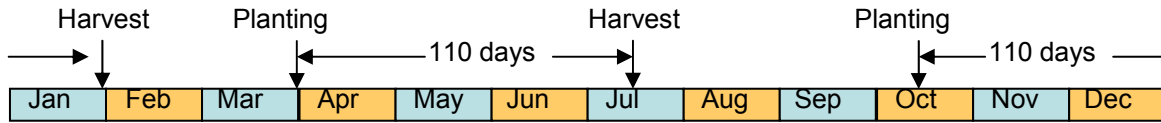


By growing two crops of maize per year, farmers can greatly increase productivity of their land.

Advisory Bulletin

Which Maize Variety?

Selection for drought avoidance



Early-maturing varieties

Variety	Company	Days to maturity
PH1, PH4, Katumani B, DLC1, DH01, DH02, DH03, DH04	Kenya Seed Co	75-120
WS103, WS909, WS202	Western Seed Co.	100-120
Duma41, Duma43	Seedco	100-120

In much of semi-arid lower potential parts of Kenya, there is a serious risk of unreliable rainfall, and late-season drought. In these areas, early-maturing varieties should be grown. Depending on rainfall pattern, two crops may be grown per year.

Selection for tolerance to the Maize Streak Virus (MSV)

In many mid-altitude areas, there are serious outbreaks of MSV which may result in 80% loss of yield. In these areas, farmers should select one of several newly-released varieties which are tolerant to MSV.



Varieties exhibiting tolerance to MSV.

Variety	Company	Days to maturity
PAN67	Pannar Seed Co.	135-165
WH403, WH502, WH504, WH505	Western Seed Co.	135-165
DK8031, DK8053	Monsanto	120-150
Simba61, Duma41, Duma43	Seedco	100-140
KH500-21A	Freshco	120-140

Selection for tolerance to Striga weed

In areas where Striga weed is prevalent, use either WH502 from Western Seed Co or KSTP from KARI which can tolerate Striga (under medium to low weed pressure). Alternatively, use the Ua Kayongo H1 which has a herbicide coating on the seed. The herbicide kills germinating weed seeds including Striga, but not the maize variety which is resistant to the herbicide.



General advice

➤ Spread risk by growing a number of varieties.

To maximise yield potential of your varieties:

➤ Plant early at the start of the rains

➤ Use correct spacing, and correct methods of fertilizer application

➤ Control weeds