



Bird Scaring

sticks. Dry the seed on clean- cemented drying yard or canvas/polythene for 3 to 4 days. Clean the seed very well to remove stones, soil and plant broken leaves from the seed. Store your seeds in good granaries. Good storage enables you to keep and sell your produce when prices are attractive.

Maintaining soil fertility

Do not remove plant remains or stems and the threshed heads from the field. In other words, harvest, heap and thresh the heads in the field.

Conclusion

Sunflower is a crop that has become profitable in Uganda. It is a source of cooking oil. The by-product seed cake supplements for livestock feed. The dry stem and head can be used as source of organic manure.

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Growing New Sunflower Hybrid, Pan 7351



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Growth characteristics

PAN 7351 is a new sunflower hybrid with grey striped medium sized seed. It has 47.6% oil content while other varieties average 44%. It matures between 90-105 days.

Seedbed preparation and planting

Prepare your field in February for early planting in April for first rains and prepare again fields in July for the second rains planting beginning in August up to Mid September. PAN 7351 is planted once to avoid reduction in yield. The farmer should therefore buy fresh seed for planting.

Spacing between rows and along rows should be 75cm x 50 cm respectively. Drop 3 to 5 seeds per hole. You need 4 kg/ha of seed.



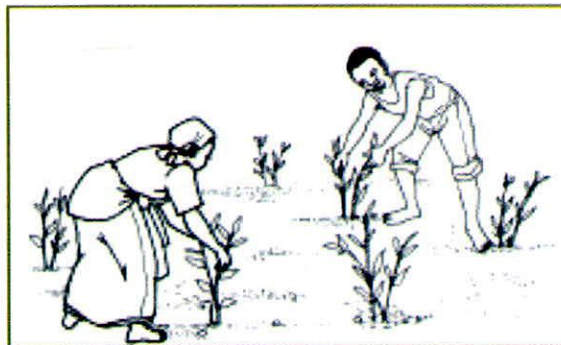
Spacing

Weed control

Weed within two to three weeks after planting and the second one after four to five weeks.

Thinning

Thin after the first weeding.. Thin when the seedlings are about 15 cm in height and pull out the weak seedlings leaving only one good looking and healthy one.



Thinning

Fertilizer application

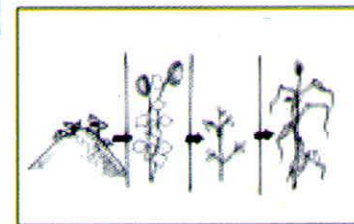
Apply 187 kg of Single Super Phosphate (SSP) per hectare and 130 kg of Urea per hectare before or during planting by broadcasting by hand.

Diseases and control.

The two main diseases are leaf-spots and stem rots. Remove diseased plants or weak plants before and after flowering. Grow sunflower in rotation with other crops to reduce the risk of disease build up and weeds. Sunflower follows cereals as they do not share common disease.



Leaf spot disease



Crop Rotation

Pests and control

The two main pests are birds and African bollworm. To control bird damage, plant the crop in your area at the same time, avoid planting sunflower near big trees and swamps. Scare birds mechanically by beating empty tins and use of scare crows. Do not intercrop

sunflower with cotton or pigeon peas since they are attacked by African bollworm.

Harvesting, drying and storage.

Harvest the crop when the stem and the back of the head have turned yellow and the bracts or the small leaves at the back of the head have turned brown. The crop is also mature when the seeds are easily threshed from the head using short small