**Maize smut (Common Smut)**  
*Ustilago maydis, Ustilago zea*

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| ✪ Plough deep to bury surviving spores  
| ✪ Practice crop rotation with non-cereal plants such as cassava and sweet potatoes  
| ✪ Plant clean and disease-free maize seeds because the disease is also seed borne  
| ✪ Plant resistant/tolerant varieties e.g., WH699  
| ✪ Plant at the onset of the rains for good crop establishment  
| ✪ Avoid feeding livestock with infected materials because the spores can be transmitted through manure  
| ✪ Do not use higher rates of manure and nitrogen because disease incidence is higher in soils that contain a lot of nitrogen  
| ✪ Avoid injuring roots, stems and leaves during ploughing because it creates entry point for disease  
| ✪ Eliminate volunteer host plant, eg. sorghum and finger millet | ✪ When plant reaches knee height check weekly for the presence of whitish grey tumor-like galls/swelling on:  
| ✪ tassels,  
| ✪ husks,  
| ✪ ears/kernels,  
| ✪ stalks,  
| ✪ leaves,  
| ✪ prop roots | ✪ Cut out and destroy the gall before the smut ruptures  
| ✪ Destroy infected plants by burning or burying away from the maize farm | ✪ Chemical control is not very effective  
| ✪ Seed dressing is the most effective management option with the following:  
| ✪ Carboxin 15%+Thiram 13% (e.g. Vitaflor 280) 1.5g per kg seed  
| ✪ FRAC Code 7  
| ✪ Thiram is a broad spectrum surface contact fungicide | ✪ Carboxin: WHO Class III (Slightly hazardous)  
| ✪ Thiram: WHO Class II (Moderately hazardous)  
| ✪ Do not graze or feed livestock on treated crops for 6 weeks  
| ✪ When using a pesticide always wear protective clothing. Follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, pre-harvest interval, max number of sprays, restricted re-entry interval. Do not empty into drains  
| ✪ Always consult recent list of registered pesticides by (PCPB) |

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**Kenya**  
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