### Disease name: Late blight of Potatoes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Healthy Napier plant with thick stems and large leaves</th>
<th>A field with a number of Napier grass stools affected by stunting disease caused by a mycoplasma</th>
<th>Napier grass stool affected by stunting (small yellow leaves and stunted growth)</th>
<th>Leafhoppers that spread the disease</th>
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</thead>
</table>

### Description
Healthy Napier grass has strong stems and has many leaves but Napier grass plants affected by stunting have stunted material with many thin and yellow looking leaves. The productivity is drastically reduced and the plant is stunted. Affected plants do not grow even when manure is added and moisture is available.

### Symptoms
- Stunted (small) plant
- Many thin and yellow leaves
- At first the number of plants showing disease symptoms are few but increase very fast especially after cutting and during dry periods

### Control & Prevention
Napier grass stunting disease is spread by insects including leafhoppers but since spraying is not economical or environmentally sound all the affected plants should be uprooted and removed from the field.

Grow Napier grass varieties resistant to the disease Ouma variety is available from KARI Kakamega and ICIPE.
<table>
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<th><strong>Treatment</strong></th>
<th>None</th>
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</table>
| **Good Practice** | - Apply enough manure on your Napier grass.  
- Harvest (cut) your Napier grass when the plants are 1 metre tall |
| **Special Instructions** | - Ensure you only get planting material from areas free from the disease (please consult your livestock extension officer or the nearest KARI centre)  
- Plant alternative fodder crops like Guatemala grass, Giant Sateria and Giant Panicum |
| **Mandate/ referral Centres** | KARI Muguga and KARI Kakamega |
**Geographic Coverage**

**Areas affected by Napier stunting**

Western Kenya (Mumias, Butere, Busia, Kakamega and Bungoma – Sugarcane belt)