Production of mucuna seed

Mucuna produces flowers below the foliage and, therefore, most of its pods lie on the ground.

This puts them at a risk of damage by soil water and rodents and, therefore, it is advisable that mucuna for seed production to be grown on supports.
Introduction

Mucuna (Mucuna pruriens) is a herbaceous legume that produces large biomass. It can provide ground cover that effectively controls weeds which compete with crops for space, soil water and nutrients.

Mucuna may be grown in rotation or as an intercrop with food crops where it can reduce weed infestation by 31-60% in maize.

Mucuna may also be used as a cover crop between rows of tree crops such as orange, mango and coconut.

Once mucuna dries up, it forms a dense layer of plant material that prevents germination of weed seed, leading to a clean seedbed.

The legume may also be used to control weeds between rows of plantation crops such as sisal and pawpaw.

Mucuna cover between rows of sisal

Mucuna cover under citrus

Mucuna litter mulch on soil surface

Effect of mucuna on dry matter production of nutgrass

Mucuna covered field

Sole and intercropped mucuna