INTRODUCTION
Sorghum and pearl millets are traditional cereal crops grown in the semi-arid lands of Kenya. They are food security crops. However, the productivity of these crops has remained low due to diseases. Management of these diseases is very important.

MAJOR DISEASES

Leaf blight
This fungal disease affects sorghum and pearl millet. Elongated lesions form on leaf surface.

Control
- Plant tolerant varieties
- Field sanitation
- Spray with fungicides like Benlate
Covered kernel smut
A fungal seed-borne disease. Spore sacs form on florets instead of seeds. High levels of yield loss.

Control
- Seed dressing with fungicides such as Murtano
- Plant certified seed
- Uproot and burn infected plants early enough to avoid spread of the disease
Head smut
A fungal soil-borne disease. Enlarged green sacs instead of grain form on the head, mainly on pearl millet.

Control
- Uproot and burn infected plants
- Use clean dressed seed
**Long smut**
A fungal soil-borne disease. Elongated spore sacks instead of grains.

*A gadam head diseased with long smut*

**Control**
- Plant resistant varieties such as KARI-Mtama 1, Seredo and Serena
- Early planting
- Plant certified seed
- Uproot and burn infected plants
Ergot
This is a fungal disease infecting mainly pearl millet. Honey-like exudates called honey dew form from the florets leading to no grain formation.

Control
- Seed dressing
- Plant resistant varieties
- Plant certified seed
- Early planting