Benefits of smut tolerant varieties

- Increased fodder production in smut prone areas.
- Increased milk yields.
- Increased adoption of smut tolerant varieties in small holder farms.
- Ideal for silage making in smut prone areas.

Chopped Napier ready for feeding


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SMUT DISEASE THREATENS NAPIER GRASS PRODUCTION
**Introduction**
Napier smut disease is caused by a fungus (*Ustilago kameruniensis*) and spread by wind, farm tools, infected plants, water, and animal manure from infected farms.

**Signs**
- Black powder on flowering Napier heads.
- Thin leaves and stems.
- Poor root establishment.
- The plant is easily uprooted.

**How to manage smut disease**
- Weed regularly to suppress the weeds.
- Harvest at 3-4 months after planting or when the crop is 1-1½ m tall.
- Harvest every 6-8 weeks depending on weather conditions.
- Cut at 5-10 cm above the ground.
- Top dress using a 2 soda bottle tops per stool (1½-2 bags CAN/acre) or 2 handfuls of FYM/compost per stool (4 tons FYM/compost/acre).

**Source of planting material (root split/cane)**
- All KARI Centres
- Agricultural Training Centres (ATCs)
- Divisional Extension Offices
- Other tolerant Napier varieties are KMT 901 to KMT 914 at KARI Muguga

**Where to plant**
- Smut disease prone areas.

**Areas with annual rainfall of 1000-2500 mm.**
- Altitudes range of between 1200-1850 a.s.l.
- Plant along contours to conserve soil.

**How to plant**
- Ensure clean seed bed before planting.
- Plant one cane of 3 nodes or root splits in holes spaced at 1 m x 1 m.
- Use 2 soda bottle tops of DAP per hole (1 bag/acre) or 2 handfuls of FYM per hole (4 tons/acre).
- Cover with enough soil and firm.

**How to utilize**
- Feed healthy Napier to your animals.
- Chop the material (2-3 cm long) before feeding.
- Feed two bags of 40 kg each per cow per day.