

Better forages for more milk at a lower cost

INTRODUCTION

Farmers have shown that animals fed on a mixture of Napier grass and Desmodium produce more milk.

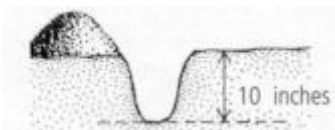
Save on cost of producing napier grass

- * Use half the recommended rate of DAP and CAN.
- * Use half the recommended rate of farm yard manure.
- * Intercrop Napier with Desmodium. The Desmodium adds nitrogen to the soil.



Planting

- Plough and harrow the field well before planting.
- Dig planting holes at a spacing of 3 x 2 feet (90 x 60 cm).
- In each hole apply:
 - a handful of farm yard manure.
 - half a soda bottle top of DAP



Hold ready for planting

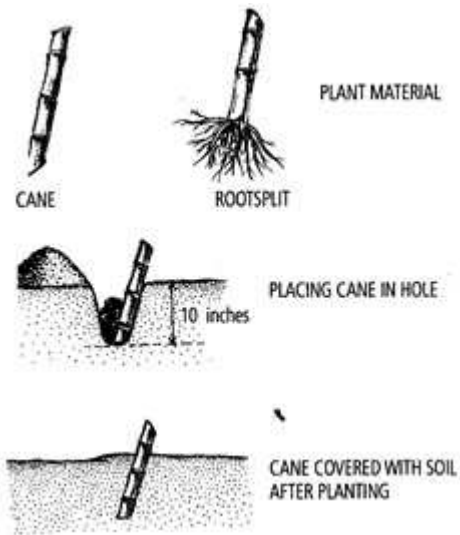


Putting farmyard manure into hole ready for planting



Putting DAP into hole ready for planting

- Place a 3-node piece of cane ensuring the two nodes are covered into the ground or
- Place root splits into the planting holes and cover with soil.



- Make furrows along the Napier grass lines or in between rows to drill Desmodium seeds or to plant fresh Desmodium stem cuttings.
- Keep the field weed free.

Harvesting

Harvest Napier grass and Desmodium at 2 - 3 feet (60 - 90 cm) high.

Leave a stem length of 4 inches (10 cm) from the ground at harvesting.

Chop the harvested Napier grass and Desmodium to reduce wastage while feeding it to the animals.

Regrowth can be harvested when it reaches 2 - 3 feet (60 - 90 cm) high which means a period of 6 - 8 weeks between cuts.

Benefits

More fodder of better quality.

More milk.

Napier grass uses nitrogen supplied by Desmodium and therefore you can save on top dressing.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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