

## **Kill Maize Stalk Borer**

### **With pepper and wood ash mixture and make money from pepper**

Did you know that pepper and wood ash can be used to kill stalk borer and to generate income for your family?

Why you can use pepper and ash mixture for stalk borer control

Scientists and farmers in West Pokot, Trans-Nzoia and Uasin Gishu Districts in the North Rift Valley region of Kenya have shown that controlling stalk borer by using pepper and ash mixture is better than using Dipterex or Bulldock because:

- It costs only about Kshs 50 per acre for 1 application.
- You get the same yields when you use pepper and ash mixture as when you use Dipterex and Bulldock.
- The mixture is safe for the user and the environment.
- You can make extra money by growing pepper.
- Pepper can be used to control other crop pests.



- **How to make an effective mixture**
- You can buy pepper powder for about Kshs 5 per spoonful in the market, but it is cheaper to plant your own.
- When the fruits are ripe, dry them and make a powder by either grinding or pounding, then removing the big particles.

- Sieve cold wood ash from the fireplace.



- Mix 1 gorogoro of ash with 5 tablespoonfuls of pepper powder.
- Make sure that they are properly mixed.



- Put the mixture in an old container of insecticide (Bulldock or Ambush) that has small holes at the top.



- Apply the mixture from the container by shaking it once into each plant funnel.
- If you do not have an old insecticide container you can use your fingers to apply. A pinch of the mixture per plant is enough, but remember to wash your hands after you have applied the mixture.

**Follow this simple method and get more maize.**

### **When to apply**

For good stalk borer control with pepper and ash mixture:

- Plant early at least 2 weeks before on-set of rains.
- Look for stalk borer damage every 3 days, starting 2 weeks after plants emerge in the lower drier areas like West Pokot, and 3-4 weeks in the medium, higher altitude areas like Trans-Nzoia and Uasin Gishu.
- Apply the mixture after you see a few holes on the leaves. If you see more holes later then apply the mixture again.



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