



FEED THE FUTURE

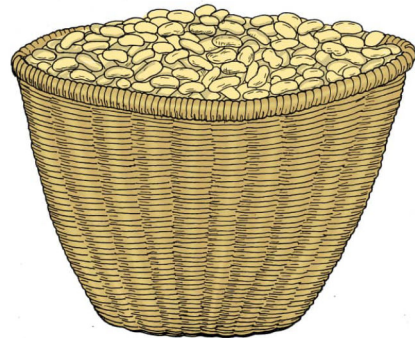
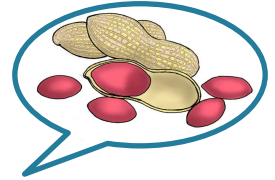
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GROUNDNUT PRODUCTION GUIDELINES

Groundnuts (peanuts) are an important source of nutrition and income across Zimbabwe.

Common Varieties

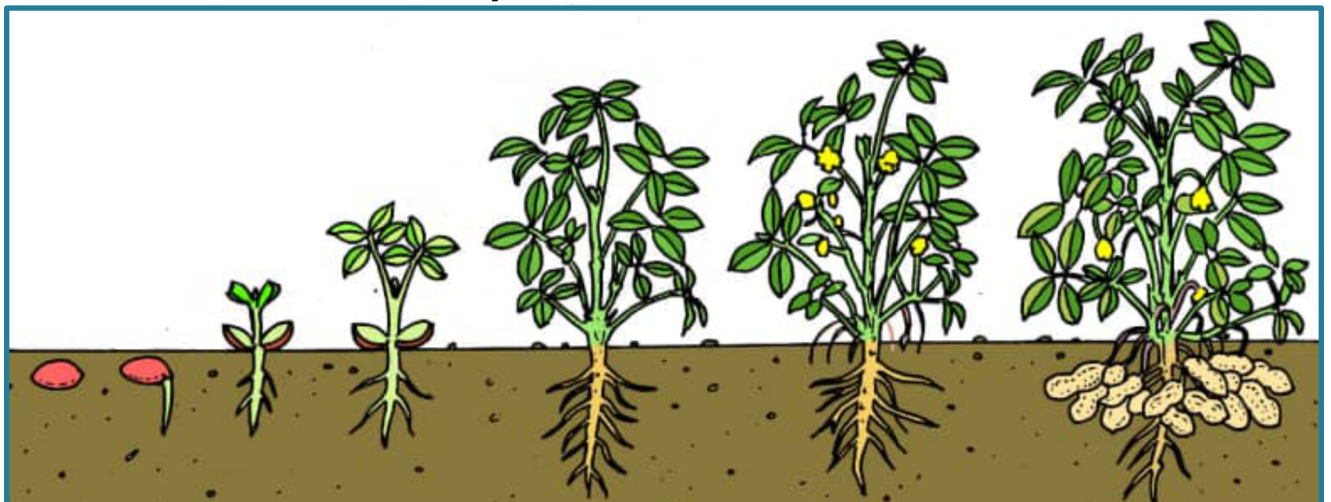
- i. *Long season varieties* -
150 to 190 days to mature.
- ii. *Short season varieties* -
100 to 140 days to mature.



Common Groundnut Varieties in Zimbabwe

SHORT SEASON	LONG SEASON
100 - 140 days to mature	150 - 190 days to mature
1. Falcon	1. Dendera
2. Njiva	2. Guinea Fowl
3. Natal Common	3. Flamingo
4. Jesa	4. Ilanda
5. Teal	5. Mwenezi
6. Nyanda	6. Ngezi
	7. Tern
	8. SC Orion
	9. Shinje

The Peanut Plant Growth Cycle



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Step 1. Preparation and Planting



- Prepare land early so planting can begin after the first effective rains (generally mid-November) to maximize yield and minimize pest and disease.
- Crops require minimum rainfall of about 300-500 mm for early maturing varieties. Test soil to determine fertilizer quantities.
- In the absence of soil analysis, the recommended dose is 150 to 250 kg/ha compound L or compound D basal fertilizer (or similar), before planting.
- Choose high-quality seed appropriate to the growing area (see table guidelines below).

Step 2. Cultivation of crops

- Dress seed with Thiram to control fungal and bacterial growth.
Plant at a seed rate of 100kg/ha and use a pre-emergence herbicide if available.
- **Seed spacing:** 5 - 7.5 cm rows in **45 cm rows** or 7.5 cm - 11 cm apart in 30 cm rows; 5 - 7.5 cm depth (on flat areas)
- On ridges: 60 cm between ridges and 10 cm within the ridge.
- Top dressing with at least 100 kg/ha gypsum over the plant rows at flowering to prevent pops.
- If possible, a second application of 100 kg/ha gypsum 4 weeks later is recommended.
Check for aphids, disease, and leaf miners - and apply control measures as needed.
Ensure good weed control at all stages - at pegging hand weed.



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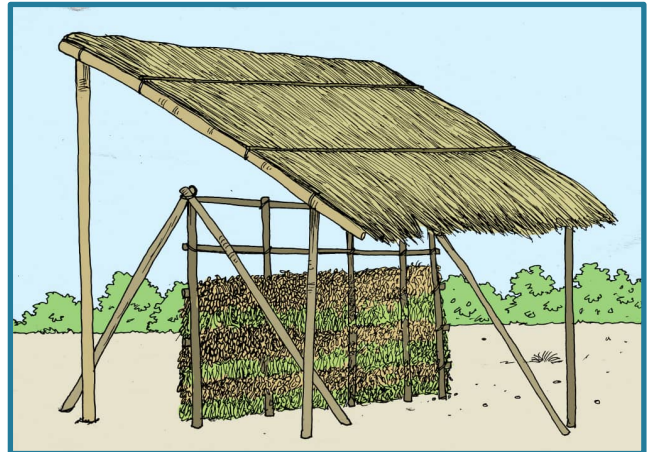
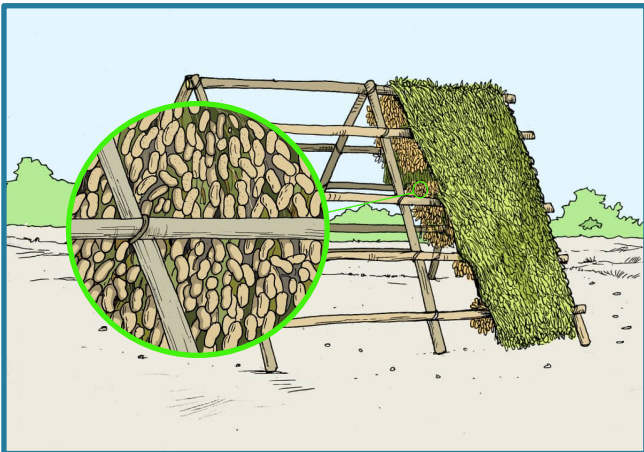
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Step 3. Harvesting



- Harvest when 70% or more of the pods are mature.
- Use dark markings on the inside of the shell as a measure of maturity.
- If the crop is severely defoliated (95%) or sprouting has begun, harvest straight away.

Step 4. Curing



Two methods of curing are typically used in Zimbabwe

1. **A-frames**
2. **Mandela cocks**

- Plants should be inverted in windrows for 3-5 days to allow them to wilt before curing. For Mandela cocks, dry for 3-4 weeks with pods inside to protect them from sunlight and rain. A good indication that pods are dry is when seeds rattle inside the pods and then pickoff the pods. During hot dry weather, groundnuts should not be kept in windrows for a long time – provided the weather is not very hot and dry, groundnuts are safe in windrows for up to 10 days, but longer during cool, wet weather.



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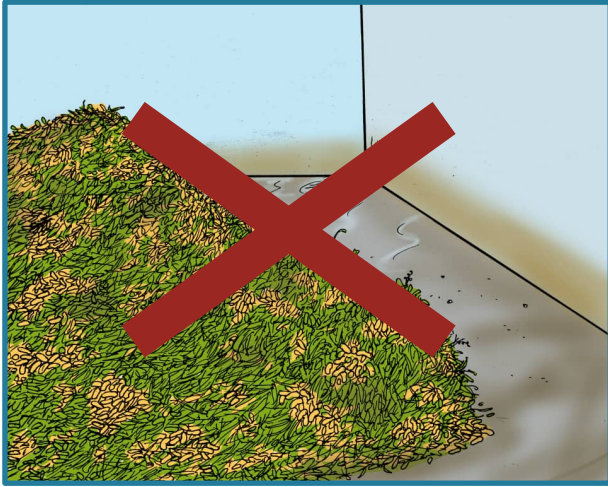
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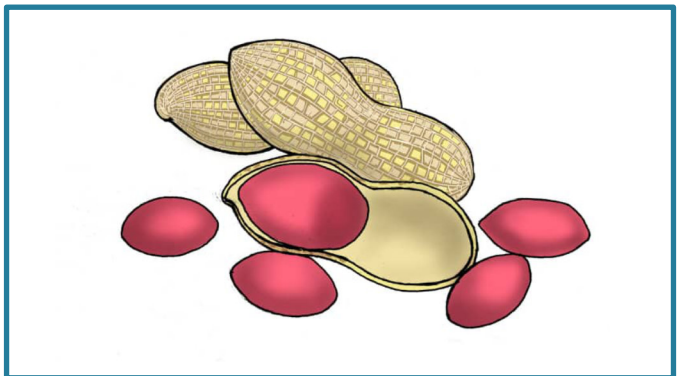
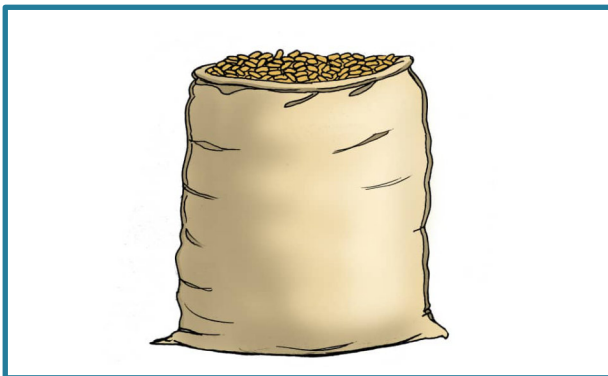
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Step 5. Handling



- Ensure good drainage to avoid windrows and cocks being spoiled by standing water during wet weather.
- Elevate off the ground when handling to limit moisture and exposure.
- Clean off excess soil from pods.
- Before storing, remove poor, damaged, shriveled, rotten or fungus-infected pods.

Step 6. Storing



- Moisture content should be 6% to 8.5% to minimize pod damage and contamination by **Aflatoxin**.
- Store pods in hessian bags in a cool, dry, well-ventilated storage space that is rodent free away from walls on wooden planks.
- Do not use plastic or poly weave bags. This will restrict air circulation and slow down drying.
- Clean sacks by airing and check for mold and left-over pesticides.
- Hand-sort to remove rotten or damaged seed, and to minimize the risk of aflatoxin contamination.
- Check that the groundnuts are dry before storing, do not store moist groundnuts.
- It is highly recommended to store groundnuts in their shells.
- The longer groundnuts are stored or in transit (to market) the higher the risk of **Aflatoxin**.



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