

## MANAGEMENT

- Staking should be done during the rainy season to prevent disease infection. The plant can be staked individually with bamboo trellis especially for fruit production.
- It can be planted with staking during the dry season for leaf production.
- First pruning can be done 4 weeks after emergence to increase the growth and stimulation of branching.

## HARVESTING

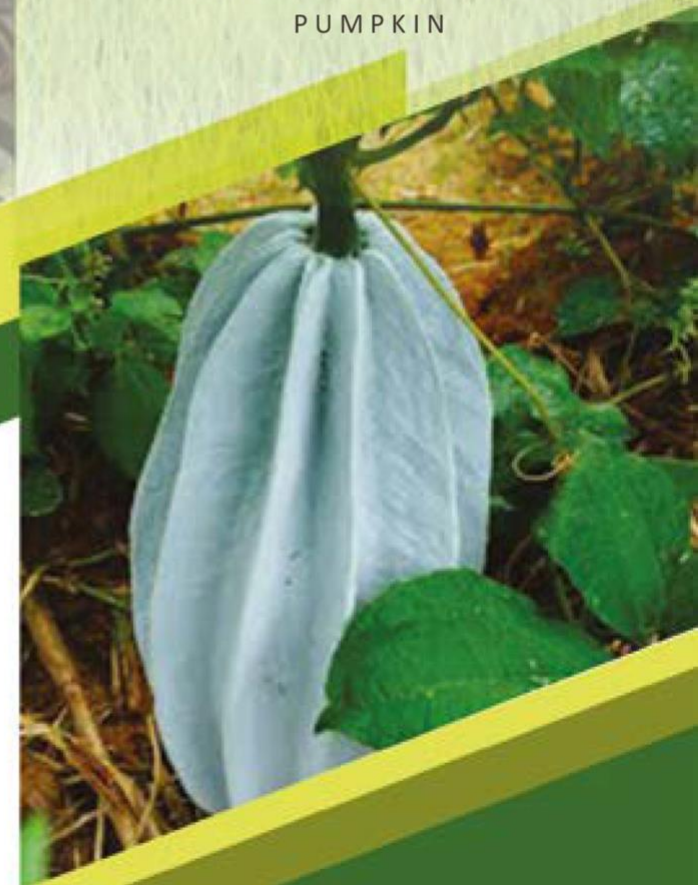
- Ugu can be harvested after about 30 days of planting.
- On commercial basis, it is advisable to harvest at about 60 days of planting. Ugu can be harvested repeatedly for about eight months at an interval of 15 days. This is done by cutting below the lowest acceptable leaf.

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# BETTER FLUTED PUMPKIN MORE MONEY

GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES  
FOR IMPROVED FLUTED  
PUMPKIN





## LAND PREPARATION

Prepare the land before sowing by clearing and removing the stumps to make the land free from stumps thereafter spray land with Glyphosate to control both perennial and annual weeds. Afterwards, mark out the portion for planting seeds. The soil should be rich in nutrients and free of diseases and insect pests.

## SEED PREPARATION

- Matured seeds should be removed from the pod and air dried for about 24 hours before planting. Immature flat seeds without cotyledon should be discarded.
- After removing the seeds, they can be treated with insecticide-fungicide to protect the seeds from insects and fungi attack.

## BAD TREATMENT

- It is usual to treat nursery soil mixture with fumigant to kill pests, fungi, weeds, etc. in the soil. Do not sow seeds until after 9–10 days after treatment.
- In the absence of fumigants, use heat treatment by burning trash on the beds and removing the ash, polythene can also be used to cover the soil for a period of time
- Manure, specifically poultry waste should be incorporated into the soil before planting.
- It is recommended that the manure be treated before mixing with the soil to avoid transfer of disease.

## SOWING

- Planting Ugu seeds is a technical operation as one must be careful to ensure the right side is inserted into the soil.

- When the seeds are successfully dried, a pointed edge is noticed at the top of the seeds.
- This pointed edge is the portion that must be inserted into the soil at a depth of 3-5cm.
- Any mistake in the mode of planting could adversely affect the emergence of seedlings.
- The pointed edge should be identified and ensure it points downward during planting on the field at a spacing of 1m by 1m.
- There are two approaches to planting Ugu seeds:
  - Planting using dibbling method: In this method, the soil is just scooped and the seeds are inserted into the soil. The soil is not tilled.
  - Planting on beds: In this method, nursery beds are constructed, the land is tilled. Raised beds of about 4m by 4m are constructed across the slope of the land to reduce the risk of erosion.

## WATERING

Water the seedlings every morning. Generally watering should be moderate

## “PLANTING UGU SEEDS IS A TECHNICAL OPERATION”

## FERTILIZER APPLICATION

- A nitrogenous fertilizer such as urea is the best to use on Ugu farm, because Ugu is a leafy plant and such fertilizer increases the growth of the leaves of plant. However, NPK 15:15:15 could be applied at 2 weeks as basal



- Foliar fertilizer that acts as supplements should be applied at 250mls into 16 litres of water once a week. This helps boost growth of the plant resulting in greater yield.

## INSECT PEST CONTROL

- Pest such as leaf defoliators and some pathogenic infections are often noticed.

As with all crops:

- Control pest and diseases in the field at the first sight of occurrence.
- Use Lambdacyalothrin 5EC and Cypermethrin 5EC insecticides at the rate of 3-4L/ha at first two weeks and after that, every week at the rate of 250mls/16ltrs of water.
- Remove and destroy the affected plants

In case of fungal diseases like dews, leaf spots, leaf blight, anthracnose use mancozeb & mephenoxem, azoxystrobin & difenoconazole

- Note also that the foliar fertilizer can be used with all forms of insecticides and can be mixed in the same sprayer before spraying. Make sure you stop spraying insecticide as recommended by the manufacturer before harvesting this should be strictly observed.