

## **ROYAL TIMES**







## **ROYAL SEED GOING GREEN**

At Royal Seed we are trying to go green by looking after the environment around us. We are encouraging our staff (Royal-lites) to take part in making our planet greener.

We are working on the following areas;

#### 1 Solar Panels & Power storage Batteries

Royal Seed has taken upon ourselves on the energy saving drills, having depending on 80% Solar energy & 20% cabled electricity.

#### 2 <u>Integrated pest management</u>

We have Traps setup, blue to trap Thrips & yellow to trap whiteflies. For Tuta absoluta, we use a pheromone based trap both in the Greenhouses and in the field.

#### 3. Water harvesting gutters

We have well designed water harvesters that enable us to recycle the rain water for our trial farms & domestic uses.

#### 4. Designated dumping sections

We have divided our waste into 3 sections for ease of reuse,

- paper waste,
- organic waste,
- glasses & metals





## FROM OUR ROYAL-LITES







## **CABBAGE FARMING**

#### CABBAGE GROWING TECHNIQUES

#### 1. Nursery establishment

- Site your nursery in areas that have well drained soils
- Prepare the nursery bed to a fine tilth and water regularly and avoid wet conditions as this will cause damping off to the seedlings.
- Make shallow rills, 15cm apart and sow your seeds thinly.

#### 2 Transplanting

- The seedlings should be transplanted to the main field when they are about 4 weeks old or 15cm tall.
- Spacing should be 45cm apart and the rows 60 x 60cm apart.

Cabbages are heavy feeders, hence one needs to settle on a good variety and apply at every crop development stage:

- Transplanting stage at 4 weeks -DAP
- 4 Weeks after Transplanting-Top dress using CAN.
- It is advisable to split the fertilizer during the cropping period.
- 1st application should be done at the vegetative stage-4 weeks after transplanting
- 2nd application at the head formation stage-8 weeks after transplanting
- Watering should be done immediately after the fertilizer application.

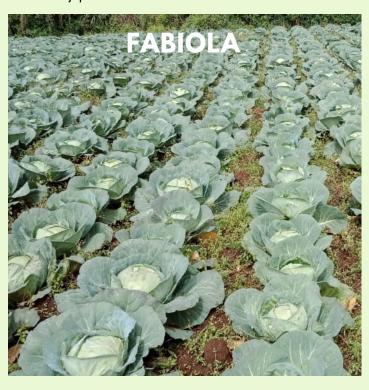
# PRETORIA & FABIOLA CABBAGE

Royal Seed Ltd, is well know for Market varieties: Cabbage Pretoria f1 & Cabbage Fabiola f1

- Cabbages are heavy feeders hence one needs to settle on a good variety and apply at every crop development stage.
- Pretoria f1 has an excellent wrapper leaves & heat tolerance, matures from 75 days from transplanting having a head size of 4-5kgs with yield potential of 60 tonnes per acre.
- Fabiola f1 is a semi flat head shape with excellent wrapper leaves & with a field holding capacity of 21 days,matures btw 75-80 days from transplanting,head size of 5kgs with yeild potential of 60 tonnes per acre.

#### Tolerance:

- Black rot
- Fusarium Yellow
- Ringspot





## FROM OUR ROYAL-LITES







## **FARMING TECHNIQUES**

At Kenya Highland Seed Company Ltd, we have a demo field that is incorporating various farming techniques such as;

#### 1 Water Conservation

We encourage farmers on adopting practices leading to water being efficiently used resulting to higher agricultural production. The most common Practices are use of drip irrigation & mulching.

#### 2. Minimum Soil Disturbance

practices and treatments to protect soil thus enhance performance. It helps in maintaining essential minerals within the soil, reduces erosion and destruction of soil micro and macro organism habitats that happens in common conventional ploughing practices.

#### 3. <u>Practicing Crop Rotation</u>

The principle works by not allowing insects or weeds to establish a pattern as some of the rotational crops act as natural herbicides and insecticides against specific crops hence keeping their pressures low. This in turn helps in eliminating challenges with yield production and infestations in the fields.

# TRIAL FARM & GREENHOUSE

#### 4. Integrated Pest Management

This is a broad based approach which aims at keeping pests below the Economic Injury Level. A good example is by use of yellow and blue sticky traps used in mass trapping of flying pests such as whiteflies, fruit flies, bean flies, thrips, leaf miners, moths and winged aphids in our Seedlings Propagation units. For Tuta absoluta, we use:

 pheromone based traps both in the Greenhouses and in the field. Male moths are naturally attracted to the pheromone where they remain trapped and monitoring is done to get a more representative result.







## FROM OUR ROYAL-LITES







## **WATERMELON ASALI F1**

#### 'Meeting the farmers' expectation'

Having assessed the farmers' expectations, the Royal seed team launched Asali F1 is a superior hybrid watermelon with oblong shaped fruits and very sweet deep red flesh.

#### Watermelon - ASAL1

Performs well in Sandy Ioam, Rich in organic matter and good drainage.

#### Key attributes:

- Maturity of 85days from transplanting
- Fruit weight btw 10-12kgs
- Yield potential of 30-40 tons per acre
- Excellent storage & trasportability

#### Benefits:

- On average, every plant will give about 2 fruits weighing 10kgs
- Has a reduced seed size and a tough skin giving it room for more succulent flesh.

#### Soil Requirement.

- Sandy Ioam
- Rich in organic matter and good drainage.
- Heavy textured soils result to slower crop development and cracked fruits.
- Soil pH 6-7. If soil PH is too low, apply lime.

### **BROCCOLI GREEN PIA**

Broccoli Green pia is a green delicious vegetable that is closely related to cabbages, kale and cauliflower. Green pia has Tolerance against hollow core and cat eye

#### **Planting**

Planting is done by either direct seeding or by transplanting.

- Plantings are double rows on 38- to 42-inch raised beds with 12 to 14 inches between rows and 5 to 6 inches between plants in the row.
- For transplant production, a minimum cell diameter of 1 inch is recommended. 4-5 week-old seedlings with 4-5 true leaves are best for transplanting

#### Key attributes:

- Maturity 60 days from transplanting
- Head weight; 400 600 grams
- Yield potential: 6 9 tonnes per acre

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