

Seedling Nurseries



Strong seedlings increase the yield. Grow seedlings very close together in small shaded plots with good protection, watering, and fertile soil to help them get strong for permanent planting when the rains arrive.



Concentrating care - seedling nurseries help to concentrate resources at the most important time of plant growth.



By extending the harvesting season (earlier and later) it can help people get better prices when they sell their harvest.



Shading vulnerable seedlings reduces water stress and reduces the amount of rainwater and watering needed to give the plants a good start in life.



People can get harvests for a longer period when they don't plant all their seeds at the same time. This can help ensure crops when rainfall is late, varied or unpredictable.

Get started

A seedling nursery is a small patch of ground or containers planted with seeds and protected from strong winds, heavy rains, birds, animals and strong sunshine, with a simple hand-made framework or sticks and covered with crop residues (stalks, leaves, etc.) or other materials. Give seedlings careful protection, watering and fertile soil conditions, to help them get strong until they are ready for permanent planting when the rains arrive.

- ✓ **A shaded seedling nursery is a very quick and easy activity to start at any time of year. If people start with a simple seedling nursery just made of sticks and covered with leaves or crop residues, it may only take them an hour or two to construct!**

To get started, select a small patch of ground, an old container or sack, and shade it and protect it. Remember to water your seedlings well!

Kenya, 2018 © A Melville-Smith



2019 © J. Zaremba