

**Friday, 1st May 2020**

## **SCIENCE LESSON 29**

### **Transplanting.**

Transplanting is the transfer of seedlings from the nursery bed to the main garden. It should be done in the evening when the weather is cool and wet to prevent the seedlings from wilting or drying due to high transpiration.

### **Ways of caring for trees in agro forestry**

1. Watering
2. Spraying

### **Factors considered when transplanting**

1. Seedlings should be hardened off
2. A trowel should be used not to harm the roots

### **Ways of caring for transplanted seedlings**

1. By watering them
2. By providing them with shade for a few days

### **Advantages of early planting**

1. It controls pests
2. It enables crops to grow fast enough and compete with weeds for nutrients
3. It enables crops make full use of rainfall for the season

### **Disadvantages of late planting**

1. Crops are affected by pests
2. Weeds may out compete crops for nutrients
3. Crops use little rainfall

### **Gap filling**

Is the planting of seeds or seedlings where they did not germinate in the garden.

OR

Is the replacement of seedlings that may have died or seeds that have not germinated.

## **Advantages of gap filling**

- It enables a farmer to achieve correct plant population
- It enables a farmer to get high yields

**Note;** gap filling should be done early to prevent crops from maturing unevenly.

- |             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| 3. Staking  | 5. Weeding |
| 4. Training | 6. pruning |

## **Pruning**

Pruning is the removal of excess parts of a plant.

### **Parts of a plant that can be pruned**

- |                    |                                 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Excess Leaves   | 4. Diseased leaves and branches |
| 2. Excess Branches |                                 |
| 3. Growing points  |                                 |

**Note:** The pruning of growing points of a plant is called **topping** or **pinching off/out**

### **Advantages of pruning**

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Makes harvesting easy | 5. Controls diseases                       |
| 2. Makes spraying easy   | 6. Improves crop yields                    |
| 3. Reduces plant weight  | 7. Pruned materials can be used as mulches |
| 4. Controls pests        |  |

## **Thinning**

Thinning is the removal of excess seedlings from the garden

### **Advantages of thinning**

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Makes harvesting easy | 6. Thinned seedlings can be used for gap filling |
| 2. Makes spraying easy   |  |
| 3. Controls pests        | 7. Gives crops enough space to grow              |
| 4. Controls diseases     |  |
| 5. Improves crop yields  |  |

## Note;

- a. When thinning is done, seedlings left behind should be the strongest and healthiest
- b. Excess seedlings which are removed can be used for gap filling if they are still strong and healthy

## Activity

1. In a sentence, give the meaning of the following:
  - a. Transplanting
  - b. Pruning
  - c. Thinning
2. Why should transplanting of seedlings be done in the evening?
3. Why do crop farmers remove all leaves on a banana plant before planting it?
4. Give any one advantage of:
  - a. Pruning
  - b. Thinning
5. In the space below, draw the following garden tools
  - a) Pruning saw
  - b) Garden trowel
6. Give a difference between weeds and weeding.
7. State any two advantages of weeding.
8. Name any two weeds that commonly grow in gardens.
9. How can farmers make good use of weeds?
10. State any one way weeds are a nuisance to;
  - a) Crops
  - b) A crop farmer
11. State any two ways of controlling weeds in the garden without use of chemicals.