

How to make a moist bed garden

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected Kenya's food system directly through impacts on food supply and donations.

In response, the ministry of Agriculture, livestock and fisheries has established one million kitchen gardens in rural and urban areas and supply vulnerable households with kitchen gardens. There are several ideas in which one can establish a simple safe kitchen garden using locally available material.

Moist bed garden

Moist garden is a crop production technology designed to provide optimum soil moisture condition in a small production area. There are two types of moist garden; the raised moist bed and the sunken moist bed for root crops.

Materials required include; a polythene bag, binding wire, four long poles, soil mixed with manure at a ratio of 1:1, a wheelbarrow, hard core, dry grass or kitchen waste, plies, scissors, tape measure, watering can, water shaver and seedlings.

Constructing moist bed

The selected site must not be under shade and take the measurements. Put poles where the poles are going to be placed. Measure the polythene to be used for lining, polythene should not have any holes. Cut the polythene using scissors, cut the binding wire for securing on the frame work. Cut according to the number of frames and the polythene should be well lined.

Use hard core on the lower end in case there is excess water. The next layer is dry grass or kitchen waste like vegetables.

Adding soil

Add soil mixed with manure at a ratio of 1:1. Soil depth should be 20-30 cm, no space should be left that may cause water loss during irrigation.

After setting up, water the bed thoroughly and let it settle until the following day before planting vegetables.