



# Six Steps to Cassava Weed Management and Best Planting Practices



STEP 1: Site Selection

STEP 2: Slashing

STEP 3: Herbicide Application

STEP 4: Ploughing and Ridging

STEP 5: Planting

STEP 6: Weed Control

## STEP 1: Site Selection

Select a suitable field that is not stony or very shallow, does not get water-logged and is not on a slope. Presence of biological activity (earthworms or worm casts) is an indication of good soils.

## STEP 2: Land Clearing - Slashing

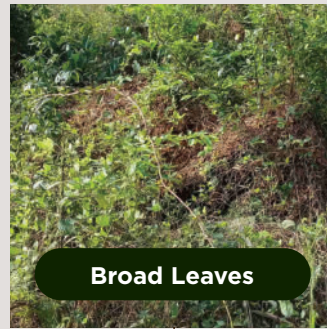
What does your field look like?



Little Vegetation



Bush (Trees)



Broad Leaves



Grass

Slash and clear the field. Remove stumps if needed

Vegetation is fresh and green.

Vegetation is taller than knee height (50cm).

Does your field have any of the problem weeds below?



(See details in separate sheet)

Vegetation is taller than knee height (50cm).

Slash, clear and allow to regrow for 2 weeks.

Go to step 3

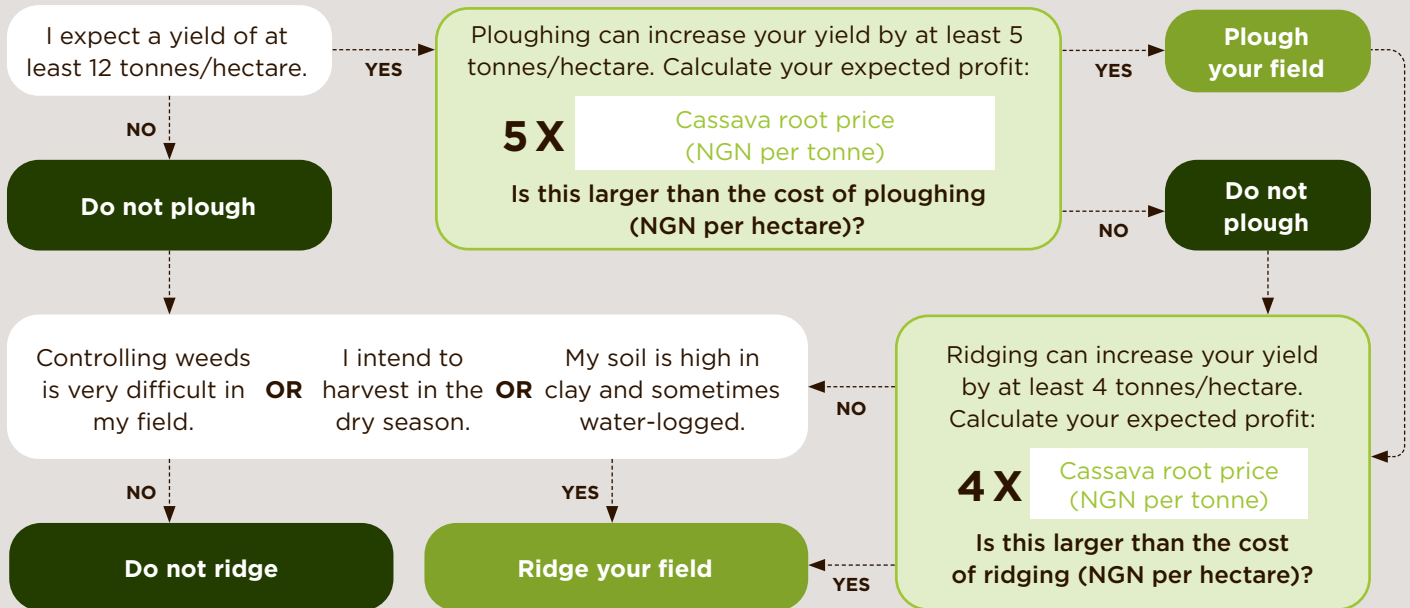
Go to step 4

## STEP 3: Land Clearing - Herbicide Application

Apply a glyphosate-containing herbicide at label rate (See list of products in separate sheet). Wait for 2 weeks to allow a total kill by the herbicide.

## STEP 4: Ploughing and Ridging

Tillage operations are costly. Investments in ploughing and ridging must be paid back by the returns from an increase in yield. Tillage investments are only advisable in well-managed fields of sufficient fertility in which a root yield of at least 12 tonnes per hectare can be achieved.



## STEP 5: Planting and Pre-emergence Weed Control

**1 Plant cassava\* in moist soil, after two good rains.**  
Planting recommended at 1 m between rows and 0.8 m within row (or 1 m x 0.7 m if you expect low sprouting).

**2 Spray a pre-emergence herbicide within 24 hours after planting.** Do not apply herbicide on dry soil.

**3 Visit farm regularly.** Replace cuttings that failed to sprout after 2-3 weeks.

\* Obtain disease-free cuttings from an accredited source.

## STEP 6: Post-emergence Weed Control

**1** Conduct weeding each time weeds cover 1/3 of the field and reach the 4-6 leaf stage. Apply a post-emergence herbicide, use a mechanical weeder, or weed manually with a hoe or cutlass.

**2** For portions of the field where weeds are mostly grasses, apply a post-emergence herbicide that is specific for controlling grass weeds.

**3** If the field contains mostly broadleaf weeds, or broadleaf weeds and grasses, **glufosinate ammonium or glyphosate** can be applied directly to weeds under the cassava canopy.

**4 Do not use glyphosate or glufosinate ammonium if the cassava is less than 8 weeks old!** If less than 8 weeks old, use manual weeding to control broadleaf weeds.

**5** *Glyphosate or glufosinate ammonium* can be used later than 8 weeks. **Always use a shield while spraying to avoid the product touching the green stems or leaves.**

**6** **Alternate between herbicides to avoid resistant weeds.**

**Warning: For health reasons, avoid any herbicide containing paraquat!!!**

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