

KALRO/NAVCDP Factsheet No. 017/2024

Cutting Back in Pyrethrum

Introduction

Pyrethrum plants economically produce open flowers for 9 months in a year, after which dry stalks start accumulating and flowers production goes down. To revitalize the crop and ensure continued productivity, it is necessary to remove or prune all the old stems through cutting back to the level of the top most leaves. The rejuvenation process prepares the plants for the next season.

Advantages of cutting back in pyrethrum

- Promotes fresh growth and encourages vegetative growth
- Eliminates diseases like bud disease
- Eases weeding process
- Saves the farmer costs of production during the low peak production

onset of the long dry season when the crop is getting into the dormant production phase. Adhere to the following guidelines

1. Cut back using a sickle (Never a panga), remove leaving most of the leaves.
2. Ensure that the cuts are slanted to facilitate water drainage



Pyrethrum crop with drying stalks



Sickle used for cutting back in pyrethrum (source AFA)

Process of cutting back

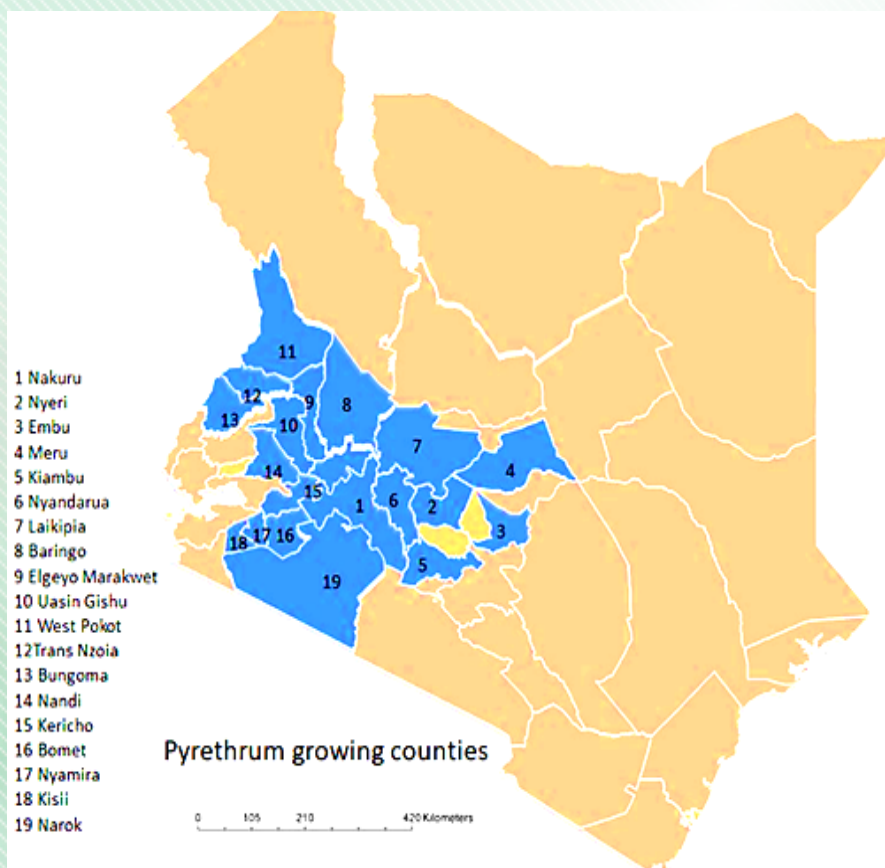
Pyrethrum plants should be cut back once a year, at the

3. Burn all the cut stalks. If left in the field they can harbour pests and diseases.
4. Immediately weed and earth-up the plants to conserve moisture.



Geographic Coverage

Nakuru, Uasin Gishu, Elgeyo-Marakwet, Nandi, Baringo, Kericho, Bomet,, Narok, Laikipia, Trans-Nzoia, West Pokot, Kiambu, Nyeri, Nyandarua, Kisii, Nyamira, Meru, Embu, Bungoma and Kakamega



Counties growing pyrethrum



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Design and Layout: Nogrecia Mnene

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