

Hydroponics Farming

Cereals such as sorghum, rice, maize and sim sim are some the mostly commonly used seed for hydroponic productions.

Under proper production guidelines, the fodder matures in just six days — hence giving the farmer easy access to animal feed.

Use of barley seeds:

On day one, dry barley grains are allowed to come in contact with water in trays and swells.

On day two, the grain bursts and roots sprout followed by a shoot **on day three**.

On day four, the shoot continues to grow and at this stage, this fodder can be fed to **chickens**.

The green fodder grows further **on day five and six and on day seven**, it can be fed to **livestock**.

The most suitable material for hydroponics is aluminium trays.

Some small-scale farmer have been improvising and using such materials as cold galvanised steel trays or greenhouse polythene.

What many forget or don't know is that galvanised iron rusts when it comes into contact with water.

This poses several health hazards when consumed by animals.

Polythene is also a breeding ground for mould and consequently, aflatoxin which can kill animals. Aflatoxin-contaminated milk and meat are also toxic to humans.

SEED 4 FEED (**0723 675 878 / 0733 520 083**) sells to farmers the following;

1. Food grade sprouting trays plastic,



2. Barley sprouts concentrates ,
3. Livestock barley Feeds/Pellets.

At a cost of Sh100,000, one can put up a unit capable of producing 50kgs of fodder a day. This is enough to feed five cows on a smallholding.

You can use local materials to make a small unit to produce 20kg of fodder at a cost of Sh50,000.

