

Ginger farming

- Ginger is tolerant to most climatic conditions. It is grown from sea level upto 1500m.
- It requires 1000-2000mm of water during its growing period.
- In drier areas irrigation should be done to avoid getting small rhizomes.
- A temperature of 25-30 degrees celsius is optimum to the growth of ginger.
- Plant in loose well drained fertile loamy soils.
- Incorporate lots of compost/rotten manure in the soil.

Planting

- Ginger is propagated from the rhizome (root).
- To grow ginger, choose a healthy, plump looking ginger root that is about 4 to 5 inches long with at least a few “fingers” and well developed growth buds.
- Make sure the initial ginger root looks nice and firm, not dried or shriveled.
- Break the root into pieces (setts) 1 to 2 inches at least with a growth bud on each piece.
- Dip the setts in a fungicide to minimise fungal infection.
- Soak the setts overnight in warm water to eliminate nematodes.
- Plant the setts about 2-5cm deep making sure the eye buds are pointing upward.
- Plant one ginger plant per square foot. You will need 1.5 to 1.7 tonnes of ginger root to plant one hectare.
- Plant using Mea DAP and top-dress lightly with Mea CAN as it grows.
- Once the ginger root is planted, water it thoroughly. The soil should never dry out.
- In a week or two you’ll see the leaves of the ginger plant emerge.
- Once the leaves emerge, water sparingly, but when you water the ginger root plant, water it deeply.
- If you are growing ginger in the ground mulch it thickly. It helps to keep the ground moist also feeds the ginger as the mulch breaks down, and it keeps down weeds.

Weeding:

- Weeding is critical given the extended growing time, slow initial growth and poor early ground cover.
- Manual weed control should be done with minimal disturbance to avoid crop damage.

- Eliminate perennial grasses before planting.
- Avoid old banana fields since they have a risk of nematode infestation.

- Ginger is relatively tolerant to pests and disease but you need to control insects using ASATAF.
- Call 0711082606 in case of any challenges as it grows.

Harvesting:

- Full maturity is attained at seven to 10 months when leaves turn yellow and start to lodge.
- You can start harvesting when plants are fully matured but depending on the market, harvesting can be done before full maturity.
- If you are growing ginger root in the garden you can start stealing little bits of it once it is about four months old.
- When harvesting, lift the ginger plant gently from the soil.
- If you'd like to continue to grow ginger root, break off a part of the ginger root that has foliage and carefully replant it.
- The rest of the ginger root can be used as your harvest.

Storage:

- For fresh ginger, the rhizomes are washed immediately after harvest and air dried in shade for one to two days to partially heal wounds prior to packaging and storage.

- Store the rhizomes in wire sided boxes under cool conditions. This is to allow moisture to evaporate.
- Rhizomes can be stored for up to 6 months as rhizomes are adaptable and easily stores in cupboards or in refrigerators.

