



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



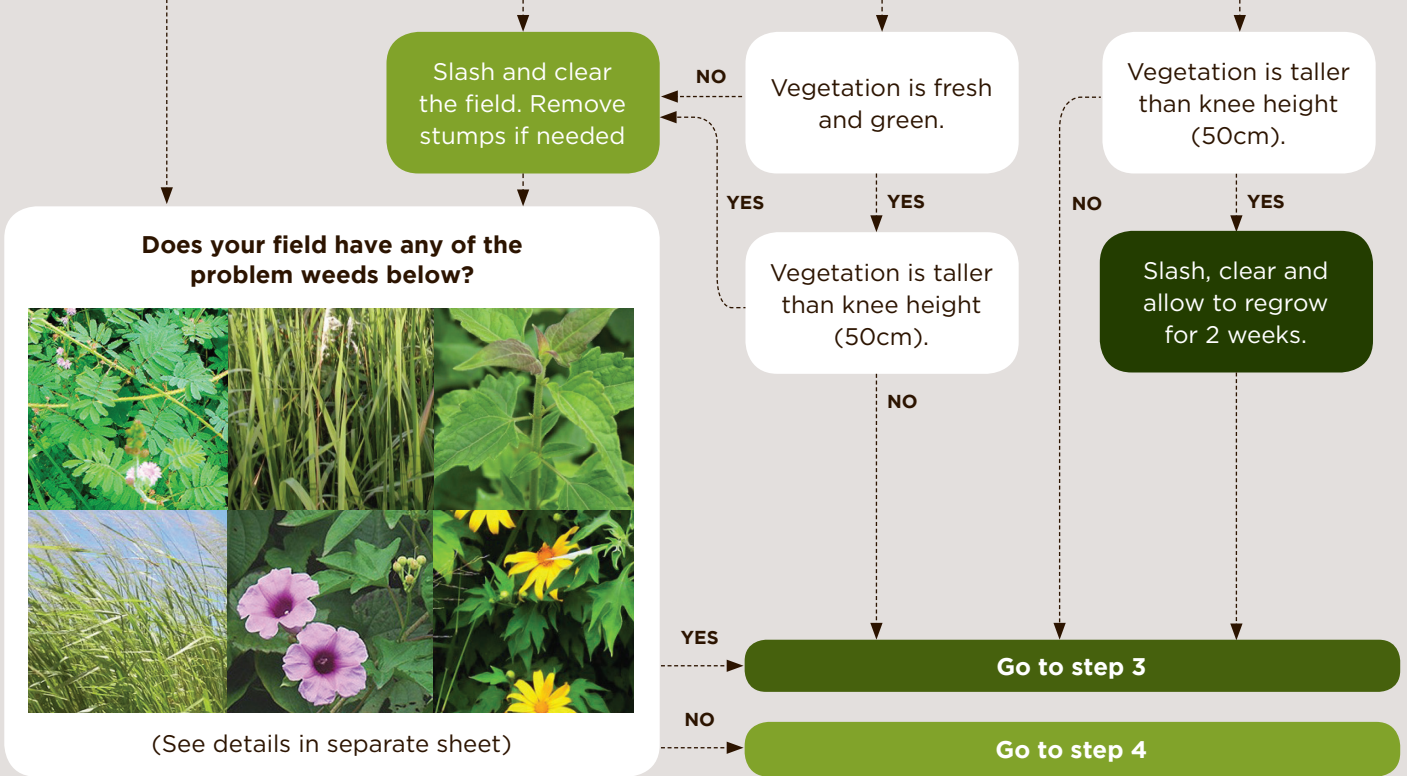
Bush (Trees)



Broad Leaves



Grass

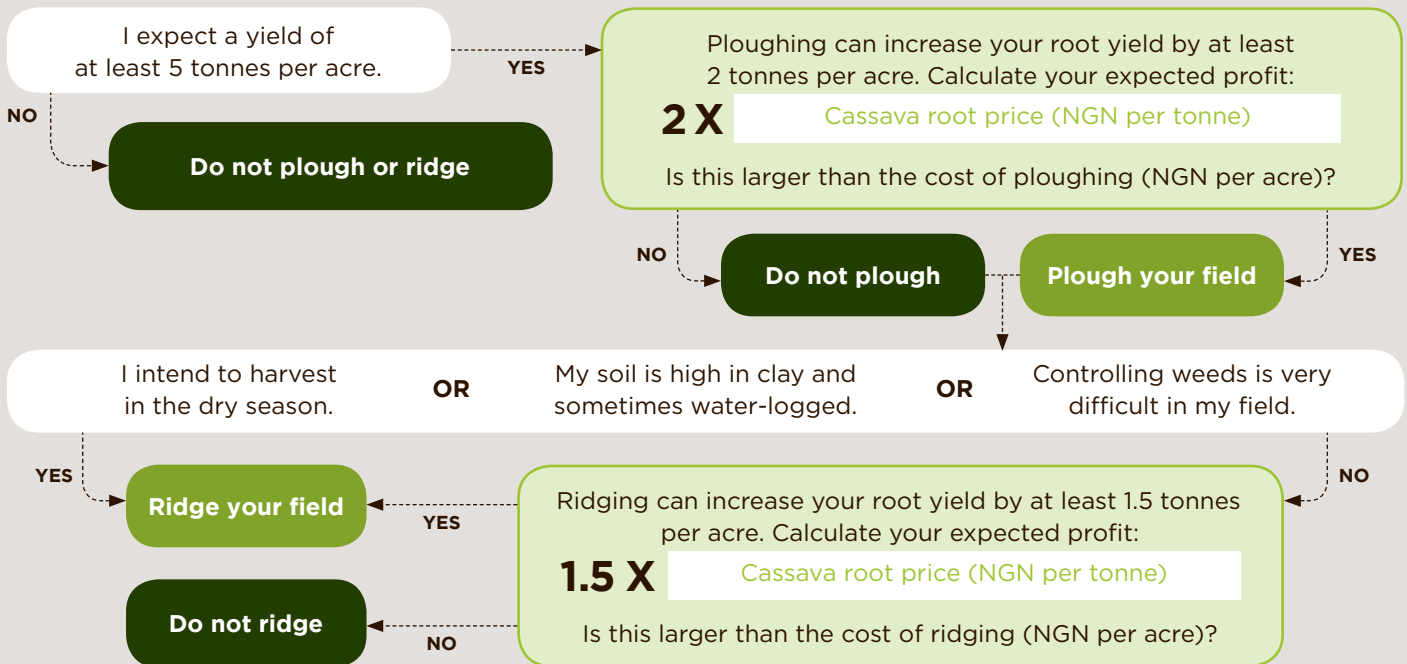


STEP 3: Land Clearing - Herbicide Application

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 5 tonnes per acre 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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