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Raised beds for onions. (Paul Kahiga (62000-00200 Nairobi))

## Raised Beds for Onions (

Raised Beds for Onions

## These are raised beds measuring one meter in width and 15 cm high used for planting onions after transplanting.

Raised beds are popular among gardeners with limited space or poor naturally occurring soils. Remember that onions are shallow-rooted, but the majority of the roots are intensely located within 8" of the plant. If you were to plant the lines of the bed closer than 8" it would double the competition for nutrients within that area.

Purpose of the Technology: The main purpose of constructing the raised beds for onions is to ease operation as. e.g watering and weeding. To conserve moisture through reduced water losses. To increase yield through increased planting space. Keeps roots away from contaminated soil. Raised beds for onions are good for disabled or elderly gardeners. The beds are neat, they leads to improved soil structure. It also keeps roots from getting waterlogged in a wet climate.

Establishment / maintenance activities and inputs: The land is fist cultivated the soil clod are broken to attain fine tilth. Mulching is done where the beds width is 1m and path of 1ft is done. soil from the foot paths is scooped and placed on the 1m portion to develop raised

Natural / human environment: In Embu county, most of the farmers construct a bed of 1m wide 4" high and a length equal to the land portion on this raised bed, onions are then planted in rows along the assumed contour.



: Embu District, Eastern Province,

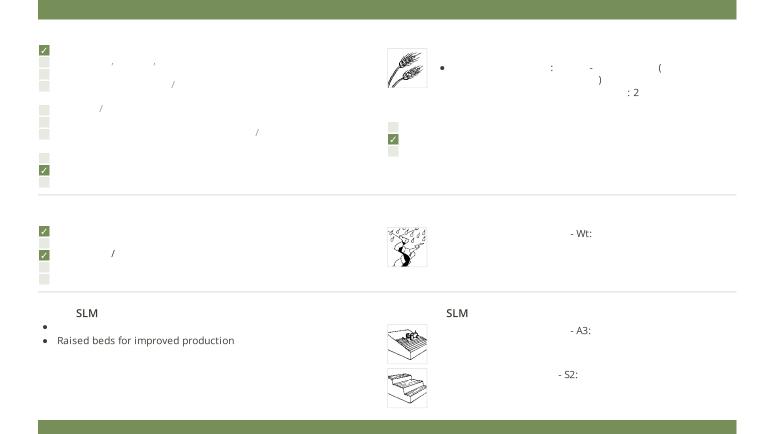
:
• 37.53063, -0.46349

: (approx. 0.1-1
2)

?:
:
(> 50 )



Young onions raised on the nursery before transplanting is done (Paul Kahiga (62000-00200 Nairobi))



The technical drawing on the left hand side shows onions planted on raised beds. The beds measure 1 meter in width and the beds are raised 15 CM from the normal surface, there is a foot path in between the beds which doubles as a drainage channel to drain off excess water. It allows planting, weeding and harvesting easy without stepping on the beds.

Location: Embu North District. Eastern province

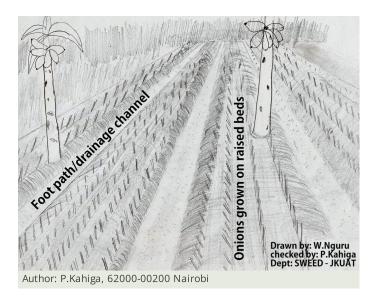
Technical knowledge required for field staff / advisors: moderate Technical knowledge required for land users: moderate

Main technical functions: control of concentrated runoff: retain / trap, control of concentrated runoff: drain / divert, reduction of slope angle, increase of infiltration, reduction in wind speed Secondary technical functions: water harvesting / increase water supply, increase of biomass (quantity)

Agronomic measure: raised beds

Aligned: -linear

Vegetative material: C: perennial crops



Labour is the most determinate factor affecting the costs.

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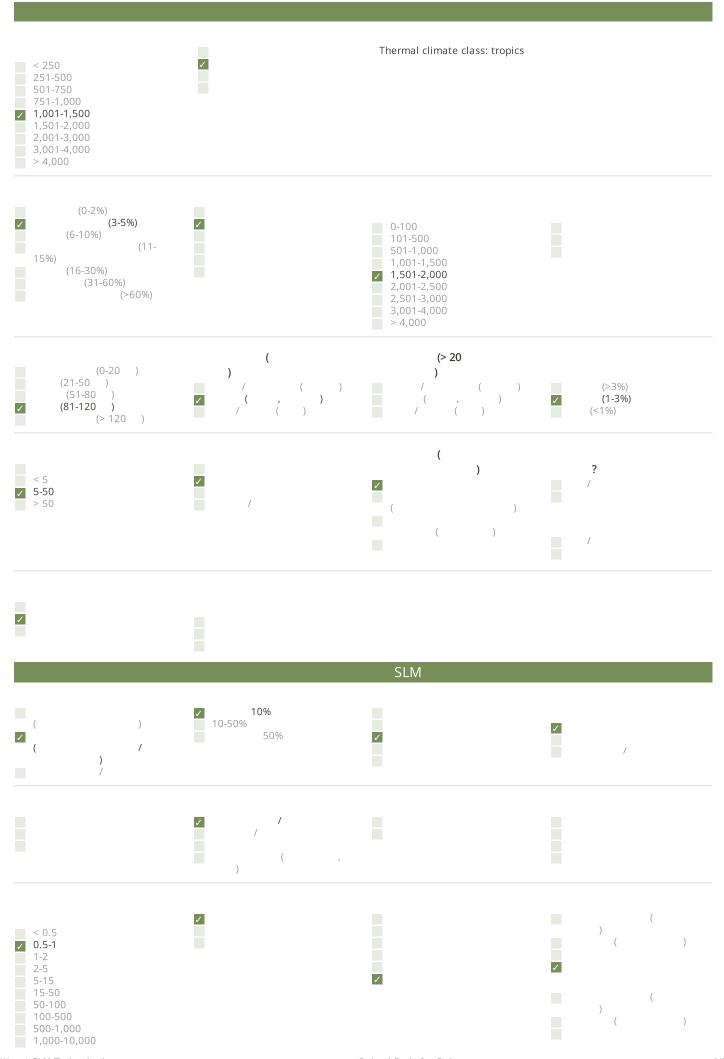
) 1 USD =

Purchase of the seeds ( / : Before planting season)
 Ploughing ( / : Before planting season)
 Making of raised beds ( / : None)
 Planting of seedlings ( / : None)

					%
			( )	( )	
Ploughing	person days	1,0	4,7	4,7	100,0
Making of raised beds	person days	1,0	4,7	4,7	100,0
Planting of seedlings	person days	1,0	4,7	4,7	100,0
Animal traction	person days	1,0	5,88	5,88	100,0
Tools		1,0	10,6	10,6	100,0
Onion seeds	kg	2,0	2,5	5,0	100,0
Fertilizer		1,0	35,3	35,3	100,0
				70.88	
		•		70.88	

1. Weeding ( / : After planting)

					%
			( )	( )	
Weeding	Person days	1,0	4,7	4,7	100,0
Tools for weeding		1,0	5,3	5,3	100,0
Compost/manure		1,0	3,5	3,5	100,0
				13.5	
				13.5	







- Reduce flooding on the fields
- Increases crop productivity hence more yields
- Reduces crop prone diseases to onions

- Its a beat tedious because of raising the soils to form beds Care should be taken to construct standard beds that can with proper drainage channels to safely evacuate run-off water
- During heavy storms, they may collapse

**Editors** 

Paul Kahiga Fabian Ottiger Alexandra Gavilano

> : 19 2015 : 18 2019

Paul Kahiga -SLM Adamba Omwange -SLM Baobab Kimengich -SLM Timothy Chege -SLM Patrick Home -SLM Mwangi Gathenya -SLM Andrew Karanja -SLM Jane Wamuongo -SLM Sara Namirembe -SLM

https://qcat.wocat.net/km/wocat/technologies/view/technologies\_1324/

SLM

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