



# Striga weed in maize

*Striga hermonthica* Kayongo

	Prevention	Monitoring	Direct Control	Direct Control	Restrictions
 <p>Purple witchweed (<i>Striga hermonthica</i>) (USDA APHIS PPQ - Oxford, North Carolina, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plough deep, plant early, use short early maturing varieties (KH500-53A, KH500-52A, PAN3M-01)</li> <li>Plant tolerant varieties like Ua kayongo, GAF4, WS303, KS 528, FRC 4251R or KSTP94</li> <li>Rotate (3-6 years) or intercrop with cotton, sunflower, legumes to reduce the striga seed bank in the soil</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional relevant crops: sorghum, millet, upland rice</li> <li>Look out for:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long (1cm by 0.5cm) yellowish blotches on the foliage and on uprooting a hystoria and young parasite seedling</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuously uproot and burn <i>Striga</i> weeds, 3 weeks at flowering and before seed setting to reduce dispersal</li> <li>Plant sorghum, millet or maize prior to the main season to stimulate germination of <i>Striga</i>, then destroy before the weed can mature and set seed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When planting herbicide treated maize always wear gloves and other personal protective equipment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow the instructions on the product label and always change gloves or properly wash hands to prevent contaminating other crops.</li> </ul>
 <p>Purple witchweed (<i>Striga hermonthica</i>) in corn (<i>Zea mays</i>) (USDA APHIS PPQ - Oxford, North Carolina, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid dropping maize seed cob on the soil during harvesting to avoid dispersing the weed</li> <li>Take the soil to KALRO for nutrient analysis (N:P:K) as Nitrogen and phosphorous deficiencies can accentuate <i>Striga</i> damage and severity</li> <li>Uproot and burn crop stubble to prevent growth and seeding of <i>Striga</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Curled leaves and drought-stressed like appearance of the plants</li> <li>Stunting and wilting of plants</li> <li>Weeds with purple flowers at later stages</li> <li>Take action when 1% of the crop is affected</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply organic and inorganic fertilizers and irrigate during dry periods to improve crop stand</li> <li>Intercrop maize with <i>desmodium</i>, beans, cowpeas, groundnuts, greengrams to shade and supress the weed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plant seeds dressed with imazapyr herbicide (registered as StrigAway)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WHO class II (Moderately hazardous) (Dressing restricted to seed companies only). REI 12 hrs. Burn seed packages to avoid contaminating food, water or feed</li> </ul>

## Kenya

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