

# ROYAL TIMES NEWSLETTER



Kenya Highland Seed  
Co. Ltd.  
For greater production

royalseed  
QUALITY SEEDS FOR AFRICA

ISSUE 15 | OCT - DEC 2023



## ROYAL SEED- CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE!

**VISION:** To facilitate the exchange of and dissemination of agricultural skills and practices, and to build on relationships between Royal Seed and its customers.

**CENTRE GOALS:** The center is there for anyone with a passion for agriculture, anyone considering an investment in agribusiness, or starting their own farm, providing them with industry-based training through 80% practical demonstration and a 20% theory guide.

To support, train and empower new entrants into the agribusiness sector, up to and including technical support to medium and large-scale agribusiness enterprises.

**HELLO OCTOBER!**

### Why it is known as a Centre of Excellence?

- **Innovation** - Research & development, to provide appropriate recommendations
- **Skill** - Improvement, Utilization & Building of a new skill in current & Emerging farming practices
- **Providing thought leadership and direction**
- **Giving Farmers an opportunity to learn more** via interaction with different crops grown in the Royal Seed portfolio.

### The Center has been:

- A place for showcasing practical demonstrations for a farming business startup, technical support for established businesses, large-scale commercial farming, and gardening as a hobby.
- A place to learn by doing.





**COME SEE US SOON!**

**The Center has the capacity to train on:**

- Basic Farming techniques; from ideal land preparation, planting spacing/ final plant population per acre, irrigation, and adequate crop watering
- Types of seeds and their performance in different ecological zones
- Sustainable agriculture
- Climate-smart agriculture
- Soil testing, management, and care.
- Agribusiness topics i.e., farming as a business (incl crop costing, yield management, and gross margin calculations)
- Pest and disease identification, control, and management

- Safe use of pesticides, Food safety, and MRL management
- Farm records – planting, fertilizer application, scouting, spraying, harvesting plus fuel usage and farm stores stock control
- Basic Global Good Agricultural Practices
- Compost making and promotion of micro-organisms activity in the soil
- Seed propagation and nursery management
- Kitchen gardening and urban farming.

**ONION RED PINOY**

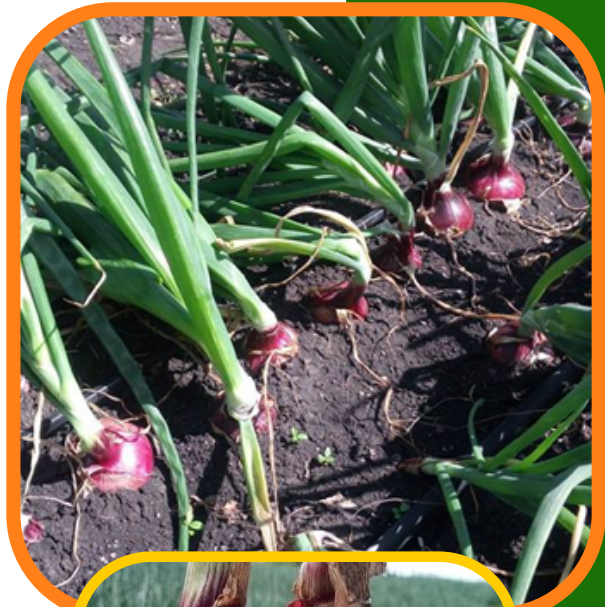
**Onion:**

Onion is a temperate crop that can be grown under a wide range of climatic conditions such as temperate, tropical, and subtropical climates. In Kenya, it's one of the most popular crops and thus its production is done in different areas which include, Mt. Elgon, West Pokot, Naivasha, Nyeri, and Oloitoktok among other locations. The red bulb variety remains the most popular among the Kenyan local farmer compared to the White bulb and the spring onion.

**Conditions for Growing Onions**

On its production, onions perform well in soils that are well-drained, fertile, and non-compacted with a PH range between 5.8 to 6.8. They also need fairly well-distributed rainfall and plenty of sunshine between 4-6 hours during the 3-4 months of life growth.

- Seed rate: 1 – 1.5kg of seed is required per acre
- Spacing: 15cm Inter row and 8 – 10cm intra raw
- Plant Population: Ranges between 250,000– 330,000 plants per acre





## RED PINOY

As Africa's leading supplier of open-pollinated and Hybrid seed, Kenya Highland Seed co LTD onion Red Pinoy remains one of the most preferred Red onion varieties in Kenya. In addition, to the company's mission of providing local solutions to the market, "Royal Seeds" also has other bulb onion varieties including Onion Red Bombay, Red Creole, and Texas Grano (White Onion) on the OPV segment and Red King F1 as the Hybrid.



## RED PINOY ATTRIBUTES;

1. Early maturing variety – 90 days from transplanting
2. High adaptability to various ecological zones.
3. High seed germination rate of over 95%
4. Good yield potential of 25-30 MT per acre under good management.
5. Good uniformity both on the field vegetation and bulbs (Medium to large).
6. Deep red attractive bulbs with strongly desired pungency.
7. Well-cured bulbs hence long shelf life of over 6 months at room temperature.
8. High tolerance to major diseases like Downy mildew, purple blotch, and other fungal infections.

## MAJOR PESTS

1. Thrips
2. Nematodes

# Health Benefits of Onions





# CANOLA



## Sustainable Farming

1. Rotating the crops & embracing diversity
2. Planting cover crops and perennials
3. Reducing and eliminating tillage
4. Applying integrated pest management
5. Integrating livestock and crops
6. Adopting agroforestry practices
7. Managing whole systems and land scape



## Benefits of Growing Canola

1. Canola is an excellent rotational crop – breaks up pests and disease cycles in cereal dominated cropping system
2. It further introduces diversity and provides an opportunity to use different herbicides.
3. Allows improved weed management with different chemistries than what is used in a monoculture or cereal dominated rotation. This also decreases the chance of herbicides resistance.
4. Canola improves the soil as its tap roots can break up dense soil and open up more channels for water to move down.
5. Canola is an ideal habitat and food source for honeybees and other pollinators like butterflies.



# GROWPACT FARMERS' FIELD DAY



**GrowPact**  
Good Start, Great Finish

In partnership with **royalseed**  
QUALITY SEEDS FOR AFRICA

## FARMERS' FIELD DAY!

We look forward to a Successful TRAINING Experience!

**EVENT DATE & TIME:**  
Friday 15th SEPT, 2023  
Starting: 08:00Am

**VENUE:**  
GROWPACT NURSERIES,  
MOIS BRIDGE, KITALE  
TRANS-NZOIA COUNTY

**CONTACT FOR MORE INFO:**  
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Royal Products  
Royal Results

GROWPACT NURSERIES - 15th September 2023  
Being one of the leading seed raisers in western part of Kenya, it makes us our business to extend our partnership to GrowPact Nurseries with the aim of being able to reach our target customer (farmer) at the grass-root level.

Located in the outskirts of Kitale town, Moi's bridge in Trans Nzoia County, its location is prime farmers in Kenya's food basket area commonly known for maize production, farmers are now diversifying farming practices in order to meet the ever growing demand for horticultural products.

GrowPact Nurseries is now able to extend its services in the areas of Endebes, West Pokot, Eldoret, Bungoma and event stretching to the lake basin region of Vihiga and Nyanza counties. Moreover, farmers from as far as Nyeri, Meru, Embu, Kibwezi, Voi, Mombasa and Malindi are still able to be supplied through courier deliveries.

In attendance during the successful event was the CEC of Agriculture Trans Nzoia County in place for the Governor, with the rest being more than a hundred lead farmers invited from the local surrounding farming area with some coming from as far as Embu and Meru counties.

The best crops displayed were Rs 5101 Maize, Buffalo F1, Nantes, Kale 1000 Headed, Southern Georgia Collard, Rs 705 F1, Terminator F1, Pretoria F1, Fabiola F1 and Jabali F1. Farmers also had the privilege of being trained on both crop protection (OSHO Chemicals) and crop management (Yara E.A Fertilizers Ltd.)

We gladly appreciate all the farmers for participating and making the field day visit successful!!!





Kenya Highland Seed Co. Ltd.  
For greater production



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