



Using a “Ripper” to Plant Seed

There is a tool called a “Ripper” that can help farmers plant maize and other crops in Zambia. This tool is faster and easier than a hoe and can help farmers raise better maize.

The ripper is a tool that does not need an ox or tractor to use.

It is much faster – often three times faster than a hoe. This not only saves time but can result in better yields if the maize is planted with uniform spacing.

This planting tool permits the seed to be spaced evenly so the corn plants will not compete with each other.

There is also less tillage so there will be less potential for soil erosion.



To use:

1. Mark where your row will be with string or stakes
2. Move sticks, rocks and other plant material out of the way where you want your row.
3. Push the ripper making sure you are making a furrow deep enough. You may have to go over the furrow multiple times to make it deep enough.
4. Place the seed in the furrow and space the seeds equally apart from each other.
5. Broadcast the compound D fertilizer. Spread the fertilizer out over the entire width of the row, not in a pile close to the seed.
6. Cover the furrow up. It is very important to cover the seed with soil, not the plant material. Plant material will dry out much faster than the soil. Good seed to soil contact is important for uniform germination.