

# Make your own silage

**Silage is preserved feed that is produced through fermentation, which gives it a very distinctive “sour” smell. Silage is an effective way to produce feed for your cows, as the crops can be harvested in almost any type of weather.**


In certain dry areas, cowpeas can be used as silage crops. However, the crops commonly used to make silage are:

- Maize is the best possible silage crop. Quick growers produce more grain, while longer growers produce more vegetative (leaves and stalks) material.
- Sweet sorghum is ideal for cows in later lactation. Sorghum can be produced in greater amounts than maize, but is not necessarily a better quality crop than maize.
- Canola is the best option in the winter rainfall areas. However, cows may find the “cabbage” taste weird. However, the taste is not noticeable in milk. The best option is to mix canola silage with another silage such as maize.

## Making silage

The process of making silage is called ensiling. Any crop can be wrapped in plastic and ensiled, as long as the stems are not too hard and do not press holes in the plastic. The benefit of plastic ensiling is that any excess crops can be preserved for later use.

You can make your own silage using a pit.

- Ensure that the pit is slightly raised above the ground and make a run-off for rainwater.
- Chop two or more types of forages into pieces of about 1 to 2,5 cm in length.
- Line the sides of the silage pit with black plastic bags, leaving enough plastic to fold back over the silage when you are done.
- Line the bottom of the pit with old hay or straw.
- Spread a thin layer of cut grass over the surface.
- Compact with a wooden plank by pressing down as hard as possible.
- Molasses can be mixed with the grass as each layer is built.
- Spread another layer of chopped grass and compact again. Keep going until the pit is full.
- Spread some coarse salt onto the silage surface and lightly water the salt into the silage mass.
- Fold the plastic over the silage or soil.
- Place a layer of old hay or soft straw onto the plastic sheeting.
- Place old motorcar tyres onto the hay.
- The silage is ready to be used after 40 days. 

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## Good silage crops

Maize • Sweet sorghum • Canola • Cowpeas

## Silage pit

- Line with black plastic.
- Line bottom with old hay or straw.
- Make layers of 1 to 2,5 cm forage mixed with molasses.
- Compact with wooden plank.
- Spread coarse salt onto surface and water lightly.
- Fold plastic over, cover with old hay and place old tyres onto hay.



## Hoe om kuilvoer te maak

### Goeie kuilvoergewasse

Mielies • Soet sorghum • Kanola • Koeiboontjies

### Voerkuil

- Voer die kuil met swart plastiek uit.
- Strooi ou hooi of strooi op die bodem.
- Maak 1 tot 2,5 cm diep lae voer gemeng met melasse.
- Kompakteer (druk vas) met 'n houtplank.
- Strooi growwesout oor die oppervlak en gooi liggies nat.
- Vou die plastiek bo-oor, bedek met ou hooi en sit ou motorbande op die hooi.



## Lenziwwa kanjani ifolishi

### Izitshalo ezinhle zokwenza ifolishi

Umbhila • Amabele • i-Canola • i-Cowpeas

### Umgodi wefolishi

- Wendlalele ngopulasitiki omnyama.
- Yendlala phansi ngefolishi elidala noma ngezitro.
- Yenza izingqimba eziyi-1 ukuya kuma-2,5 cm ifolishi lixutshwe notiligi.
- Licindezele ngepulangwe lokhuni.
- Fafaza usawoti omahhadla phezulu kanye namanzi kancane.
- Goqa ikhava yepulasitiki, mboza ngefolishi elidala bese ubeka amathayi amadala phezu kwefolishi.





Maize



Sweet Sorghum



Canola



Sorghum

## Saelo e ka qalwa jwang

### Polokelo e ntle ya dijalo

Poone • Mabele • Khanola • Direkisi tsa dikgomo

### Sekoti sa saelo

- Aneha mabota ka polasetiki e ntsho.
- Etsa motheo (ka fatshe) ka furu ya kgale kapa seteroi.
- Etsa mealo ya 1 ho isa 2,5cm ya furu e tswakilweng le lero la tswekere (molasses).
- Tshwarahanya ka lepolanka
- Fafatsa letswai le kgorofu ka hodimo le metsi hasesanyane.
- Mena polasetiki, o kwahele ka furu ya kgale o hatise ka dithaere tsa kgale hodima furu.

## Indlela yokwenza ifula yesisele

### Izivuno ezilungileyo zefula yesisele

Umbona • Amazimba aswiti • i-Canola • nee-Cowpeas

### Umngxuma wefula yesisele

- Yandlalala ngeplastikhi emnyama.
- Yandlala umzantsi ngefula endala okanye iindiza.
- Yenza umaleko oyi-1 ukuya kwi-2,5 cm weforaji oxutywe nemolasisi.
- Dibanisa ngeplanga lomthi.
- Sasaza ityiwa erhorofu ngaphezulu uze unkcenkeshele kancinci.
- Songela iplastikhi ngaphezulu, gquma ngefula endala uze ubeke amavili amadala phezu kwefula. [UM](#)