



**MERU UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

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University Examinations 2010/2011

FIRST YEAR, FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE IN AGRICULTURE

AGRI 0122: ANNUAL CROPS

DATE: AUGUST 2011

TIME: 1½ HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer question *one* and any other *two* questions

QUESTION ONE – (30 MARKS)

- (a) Why is yellow maize considered to be more nutritionally valuable than white maize?
(2 Marks)
- (b) Name any three maize seeds recommended to farmers and give one advantage of each.
(6 Marks)
- (c) Give three industrial uses of Irish Potatoes. (3 Marks)
- (d) Give three qualities a wheat seed should have. (3 Marks)
- (e) Give three ways by which rats affect wheat production in the farm. (3 Marks)
- (f) Why should beans be properly cooked before they are eaten by human beings.
(3 Marks)
- (g) State any two reasons as why weeding should not be carried out in a wet field of bean farm. (2 Marks)
- (h) Give three symptoms of bean fly injection in beans. (3 Marks)
- (i) Give any three reasons why potato tubers should not be left in the ground for more than three weeks after attaining maturity. (3 Marks)
- (j) Give the family names of the following crop plants;
 - (i) Maize
 - (ii) Potatoes
 - (iii) Cassava

QUESTION TWO – (15 MARKS)

- (a) Give three symptoms of bacterial wilt in potatoes (3 Marks)
- (b) What are the three common methods of spreading bacterial wilt? (3 Marks)

- (c) Give the four methods of controlling the disease. (4 Marks)
- (d) (i) What is hitting in potato production. (2 Marks)
- (ii) Name any three chemicals which can be used by farmers to encourage chitting. (3 Marks)

QUESTION THREE – (15 MARKS)

- (a) Name any three major uses of wheat. (3 Marks)
- (b) State any four qualities a wheat variety recommended to a farmer should have. (4 Marks)
- (c) Stat any three symptoms of Russian wheat aphid (3 Marks)
- (d) (i) What is the casual agent of Halo blight in beans? (1 Mark)
- (ii) Give two symptoms of halo blight. (2 Marks)
- (iii) State any two methods of controlling halo blight in beans.
- (iv) State any two uses of sweet potato tubers. (2 Marks)

QUESTION FOUR – (15 MARKS)

- (a) Name any three varieties of pigeon peas grown in Kenya. (3 Marks)
- (b) Give the climatic requirements of pigeon peas. (5 Marks)
- (c) (i) When should gapping be done in maize farm. (1 Mark)
- (ii) Briefly explain how fertilizer application is carried out in a maize crop. (6 Marks)

QUESTION FIVE – (15 MARKS)

Briefly explain how a farmer can establish sweet potatoes from land preparation stage up to harvesting. (15 Marks)