

MALELANE EXTENSION MATTERS

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Chemical roguing of smut

The best time to rogue (remove smut-infected stools) is as soon as the diseased stools can be identified after planting and harvest.

Generally two types of smut roguing are practised:

- (1) Manual (physical removal of the stool)
- (2) Chemical (infected stools sprayed with 10% glyphosate)

Recently, a comparison was done between the costs and efficiencies of the two roguing methods.

The manual roguing study focused on the time taken to:

- Cut off the whip, and transfer it to a bag
- Dig out the stool
- Transfer to the bag for removal from field

The chemical roguing study focused on the time taken to:

- Cut off the whip, and transfer it to a bag
- Spray the stool

Chemical roguing proved to be more efficient in terms of both time and cost per hectare!

An ongoing part of the study is the testing of a simple Excel calculator developed to compare the cost of the two methods based on factors such as field size, row spacing, infection levels, staff and distance to the dumpsite.



If you would like to participate in the study or train your staff to do chemical roguing, please contact Jan Erasmus or Karlien Trumpelmann.