



How and When to Harvest Crops

Harvesting Crops from the Home Garden

Now that we have learnt all the steps in growing crops and keeping them free of pests and diseases, we can finally harvest a wonderful crop.

What is Harvesting?

Harvesting is the process of removing your produce (fruits, vegetables and root crops) from the plant when mature, at the time they are ready for immediate consumption, sale or storage.

When should you harvest?

- The time of harvest varies with each crop
- Harvest produce at the stage for consumption
- The expected time for harvest is based on the time of planting or transplanting
- Crop- Lettuce, patchoi
Harvest time- 4-5 weeks (before they flower)
- Crop - Chive, celery
Harvest time - 4 weeks
- Crop - Melongene
Harvest time - 10 weeks
- Crop - Okra, Cucumbers
Harvest time - Once mature, every other day
- Crop - Tomatoes, Hot Peppers
Harvest time - 10 weeks, Mature but still green, allowed to ripen in storage
- Crop- Bananas, Plantains, Tomatoes, Peppers
Harvest time - Harvest when fruit is mature, when it has changed to the colour you desire

Be guided by

- Sight- colour, size, shape
- Touch- texture, hardness, softness
- Smell- odour, aroma
- Taste-sweetness, sourness, bitterness
- Resonance-sound when tapped

Methods of Harvesting

- Handpicking
- Harvesting Using Tools
- Knife
- Secateurs
- Fruit Picker
- Picking Pole
- Garden Fork
- Harvesting Using Machinery

Now that you have bought or harvested your produce the next step is to clean and prepare for storage and/ consumption. Please follow along with the accompanying posters for this information.

Video –Harvesting

<https://www.facebook.com/103936031246037/videos/550281708956591/>

Information courtesy the Extension Training and Information Services (ETIS) Division
Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries