



agriculture & rural development

Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

SWISS CHARD PRODUCTION

TOGETHER WE HAVE MADE KZN A BETTER PROVINCE TO LIVE IN



SWISS CHARD PRODUCTION

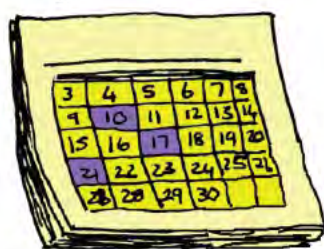
TOGETHER WE HAVE MADE KZN A BETTER PROVINCE TO LIVE IN

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PLANNING



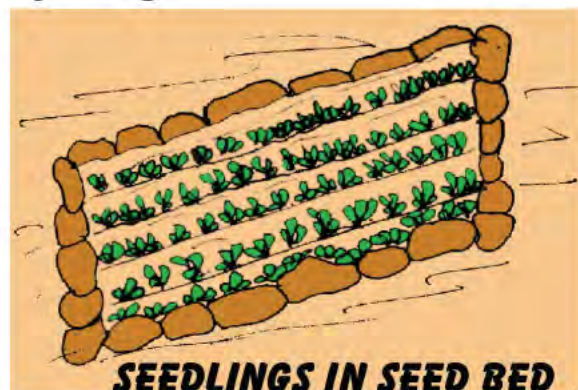
When to plant:



Optimum times are:

February to March
and
August to November

Will you grow



or

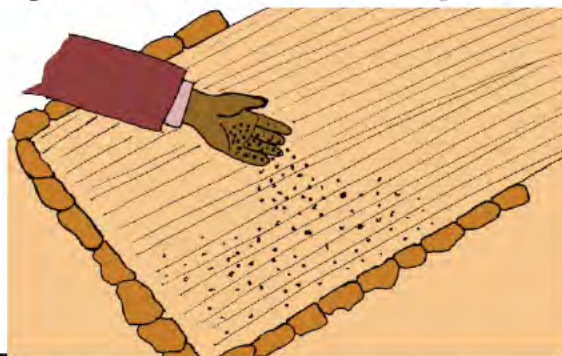
buy seedlings?



To grow your own seedlings:
Buy good quality seeds



Sow 4-5 weeks before
you want to transplant



To buy seedlings:
Order from nursery
6 weeks in advance



Collect, keep wet and
transplant the
same day

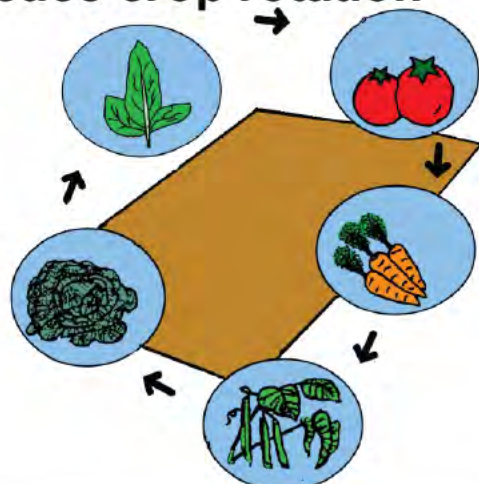


LAND PREPARATION



Do not plant Swiss Chard on the same plot every year

Practice crop rotation



Spread large quantities of kraal manure



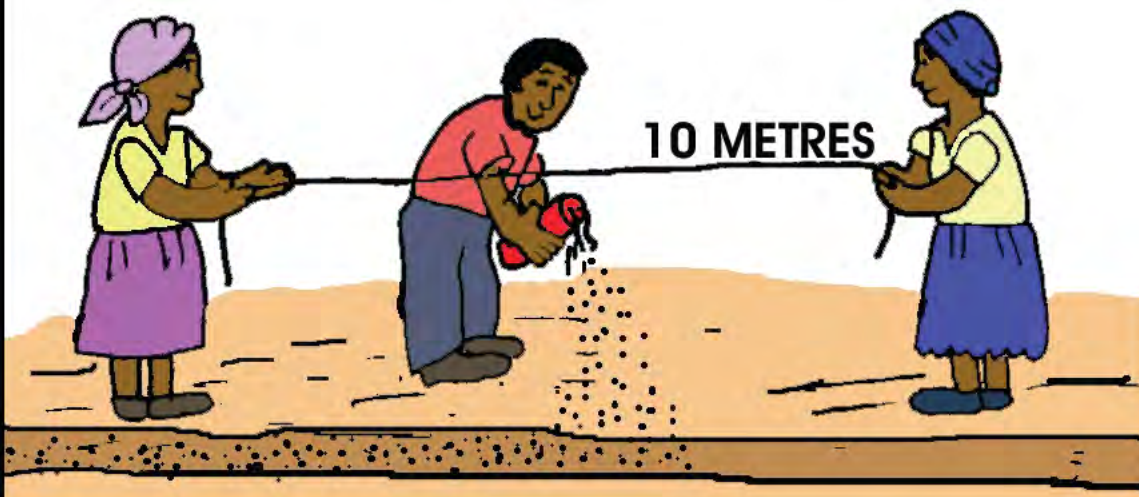
Mix into the soil



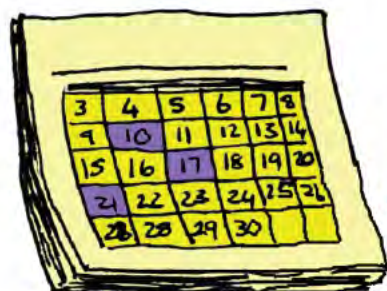
Keep plot weed free to reduce cutworm numbers



Apply fertilizer: one 500ml tin 2:3:4(30) / 10m

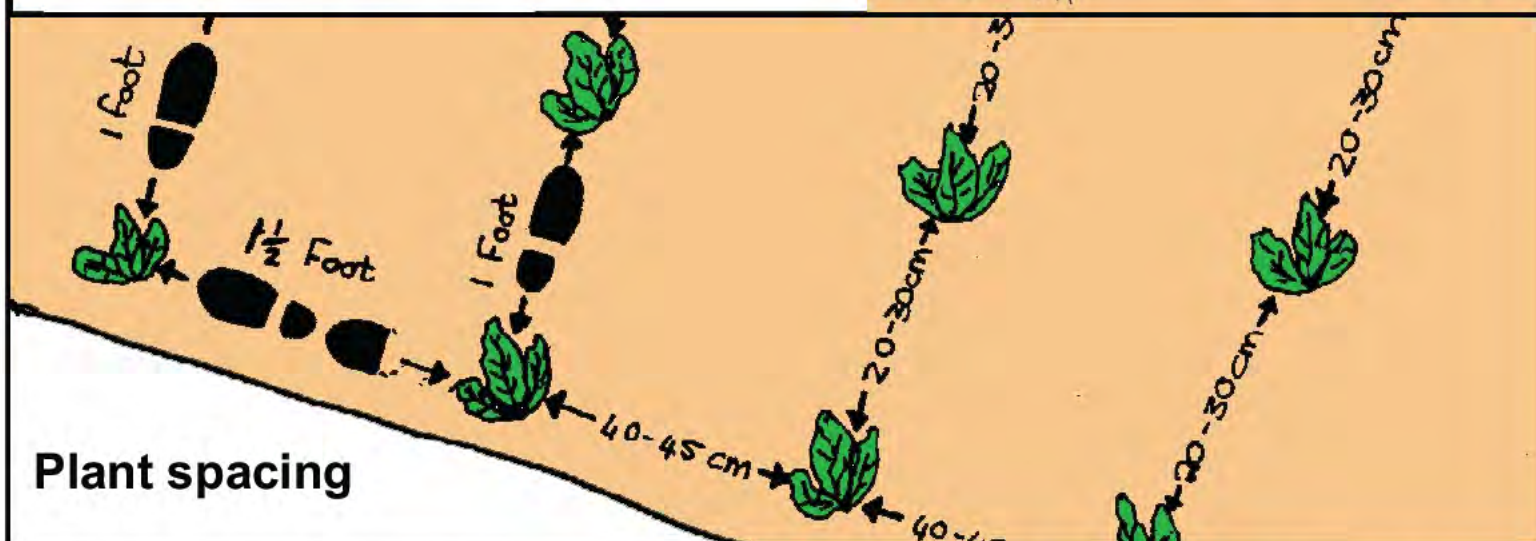


TRANSPLANTING



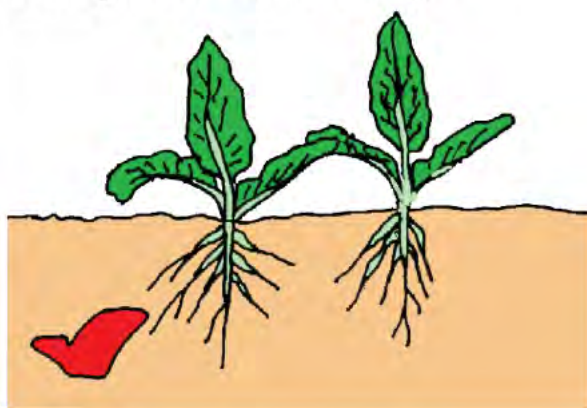
Transplant in:
FEBRUARY TO MARCH
OR
AUGUST TO NOVEMBER

Transplant only
healthy plants

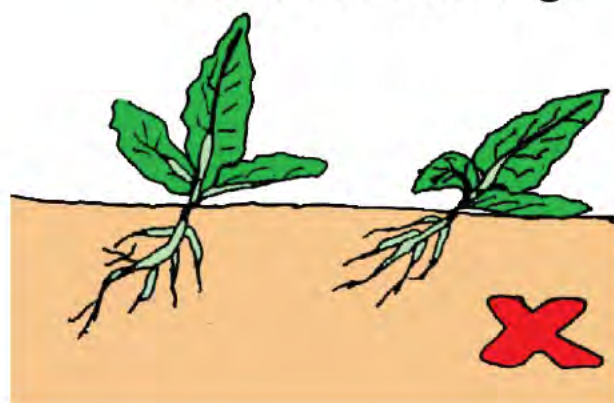


Plant spacing

Transplant correctly



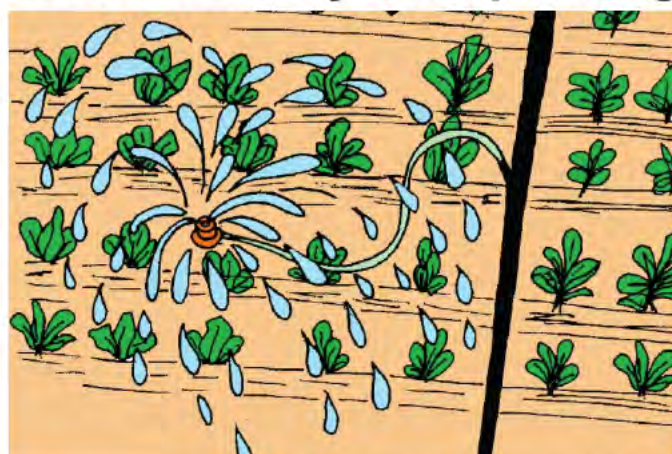
Avoid J-rooting



Be careful not to push
down on the roots



Water directly after planting

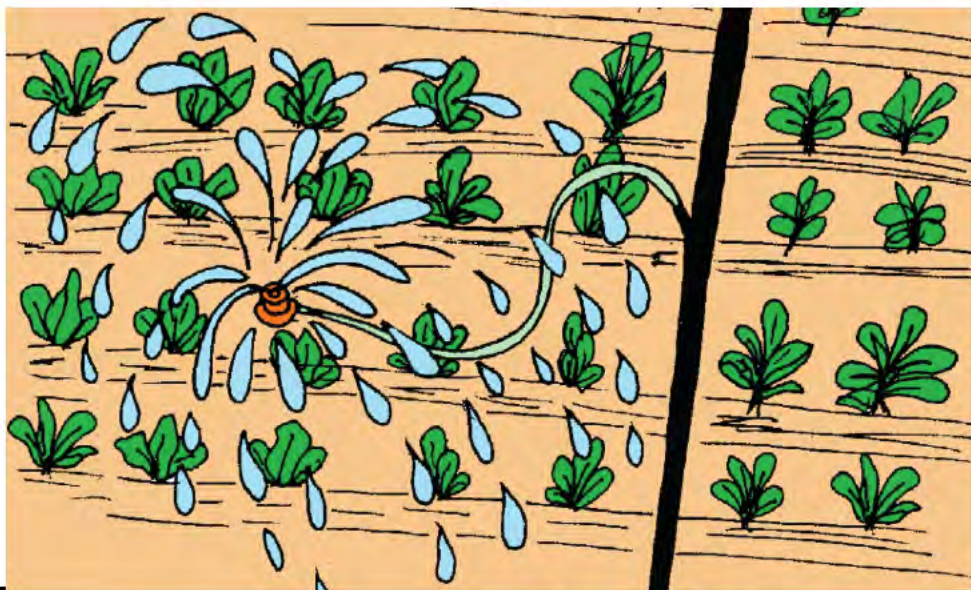


MANAGEMENT



After transplant water every morning.

When established, water every third day.

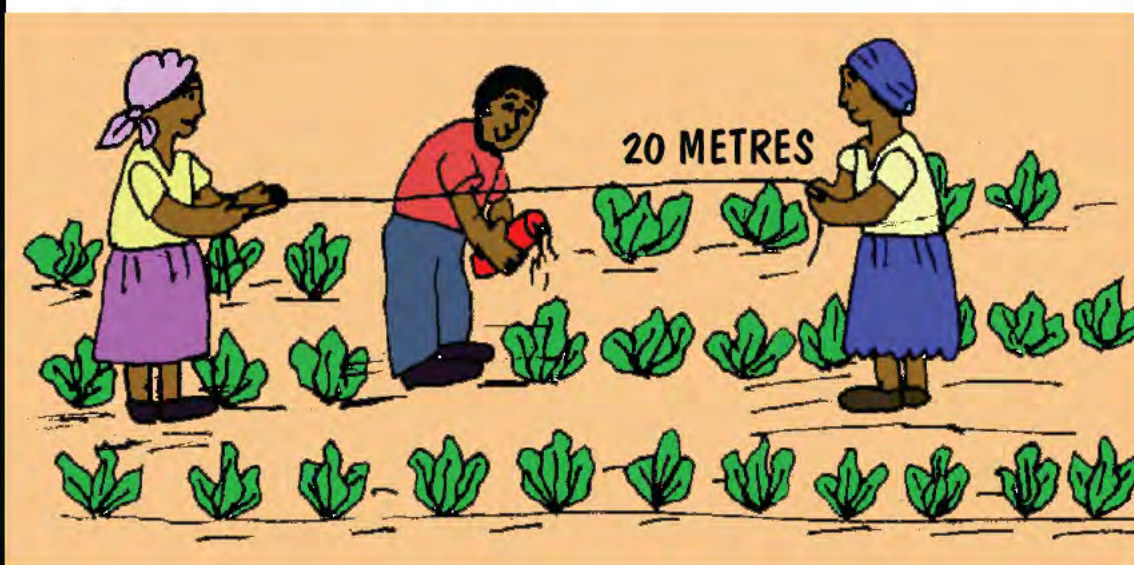


Mulch with dry plant material between rows.

Weed regularly



**Apply LAN next to plants one month after transplanting:
one 500ml tin LAN / 20m**



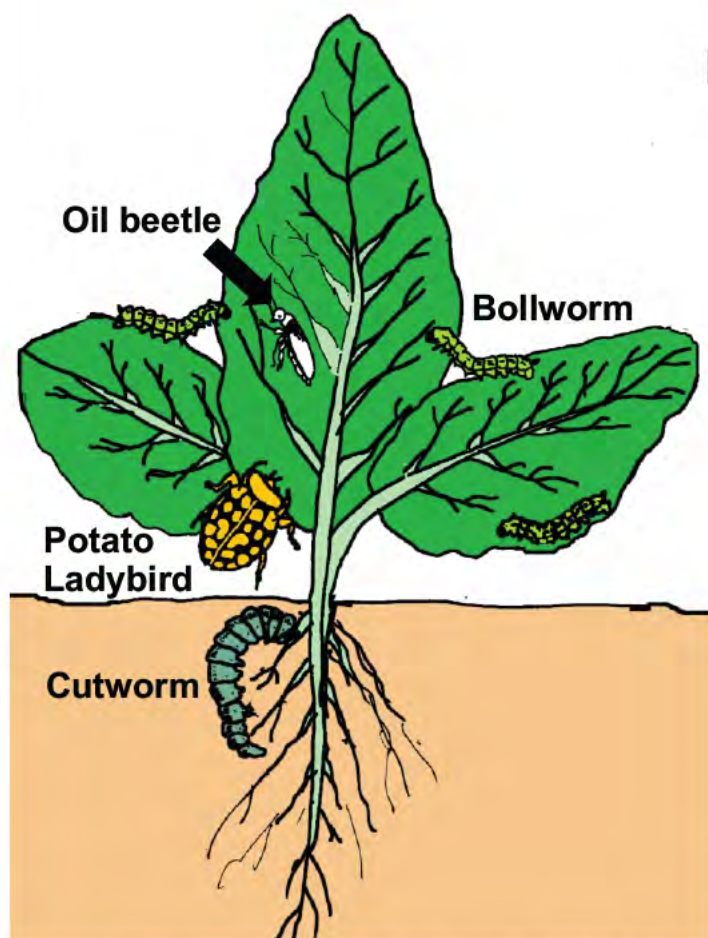
PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL



POSSIBLE PESTS

DISEASES

Leaf spot especially in summer



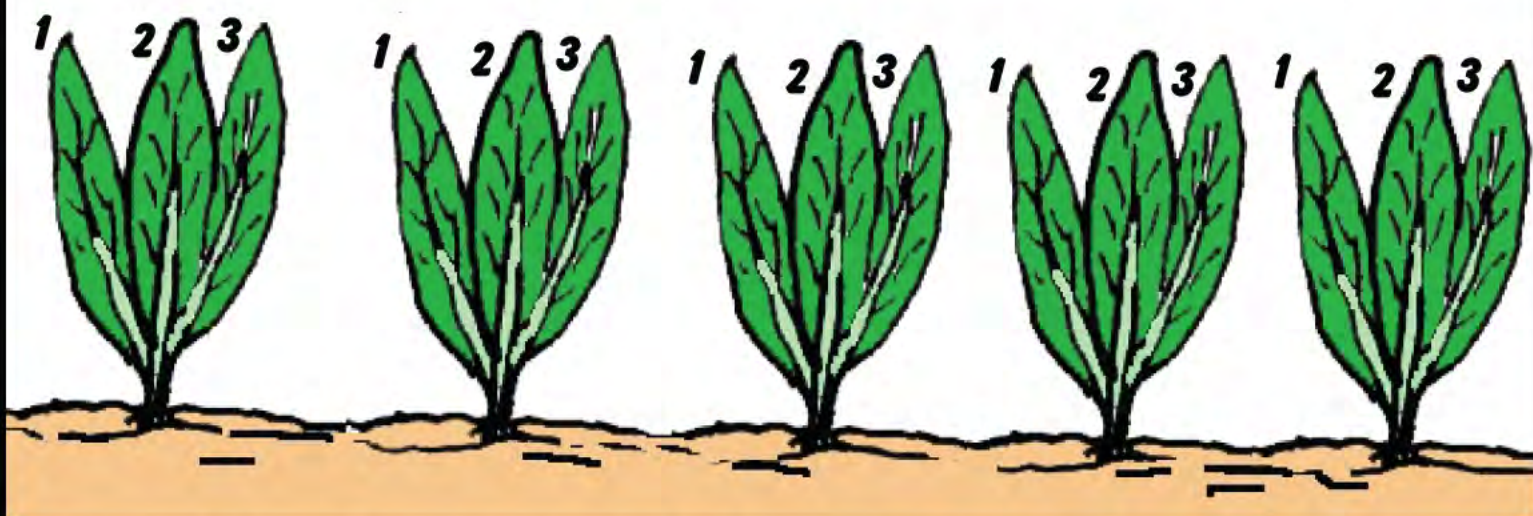
Consult with technician before spraying with chemicals.



HARVESTING



When picking, always leave three mature leaves on a plant.



Harvest, tie in bundles and sell immediately



or put stems in water to keep fresh and crisp



PRODUCTION RECORD



Activity	Who?	Date	Cost
Seedlings or seed ordered or bought: What? How many / much?			
Land prepared: Cleared and worked? Contractor used?			
Lime applied: How much?			
Fertilizer applied: How much of what?			
Seed (seedlings) planted:			
Crop watered:			
Weed control:			
Fertilizer top dressing: How much of what?			
Pest control: What pesticide applied? Safety period?			
Harvesting: How much? Sold or used/dried/preserved/processed?			
After harvesting: Land cleared?			
Crop residues composted:			
Next crop rotation planned: What?			

FINANCIAL RECORD



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and Rural Development*



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