

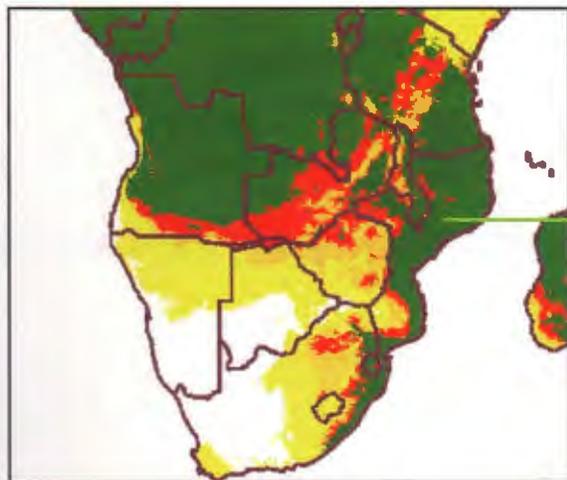
Choosing the Right Open-pollinated Maize Variety

Maize is grown throughout the SADC region. However growing conditions differ for rainfall, temperature, growing season length and the occurrence of diseases and pests. As a consequence, different maize varieties are recommended for different parts of the region.

After testing available open-pollinated varieties (OPVs) in trials under diverse conditions, we developed a guide that should help you to find the right OPV for your area.

Step 1

Determine where you are on the map and select the color of your area.



Step 1

I am from Nampula so I am in the green area





Step 2

Determine the maturity group you are interested in.

Early maturing variety: This variety does not need the entire rainy season to mature. If you plant it at the beginning of the rainy season, you can harvest it about one month before the rainy season ends. Alternatively, you can plant it late and still harvest it before the rainy season ends. In normal years, however, this variety may yield less than other varieties, because it grows for a shorter time.

Intermediate maturity variety: This variety also does not need the entire rainy season to mature. If you plant it at the beginning of the rainy season, you can harvest it about two weeks before the rainy season ends. Alternatively, you can plant it slightly late and harvest it at the end of the rainy season.

Ideal variety: This variety makes optimal use of the rainy season in your area to mature. Thus, you plant it at the beginning of the rainy season and harvest it at the end of the rainy season.

Late variety: You need to plant this variety very early with the first rains, so that it matures within the rainy season.

Step 3

Based on the color of your area (Step 1) and the maturity group you chose in Step 2, decide which variety group is appropriate for you, A, B, C or D.

	Yellow area	Orange area	Red area	Green area
Early maturing			A	A & B
Intermediate maturing		A	B	C
Ideal variety	A	B	C	D
Late maturing	B	C	D	
Usually not suited	C & D	D		

The ideal variety for the green area is from group D

Step 4

In the table below, choose the maturity group you are interested in. There are several varieties in this group. A color key is used to describe important characteristics of the varieties. Select the OPV that has the characteristics you like.

Variety	Origin	QPM	Maturity Group	Grain yield	Tolerance to			Resistant to					Other traits		
					Drought	Low soils fertility	Acid soil	Maize streak virus	Gray leaf spot	Leaf blight	Rust	Ear rot	Husk cover	Lodging	Grain texture
KATUMANI ST	TANZANIA	No	A	3	3	5	4	3	3	3	3	2	2	5	SF/SD
LTCOPD1	MALAWI	No	A	2	1	2	3	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	SF/SD
MMV400	ZAMBIA	No	A	5	5	5		3	3	4	2	1	2	2	SFlint
POOL 15 QPM	CIMMYT	Yes	A	4	4	4	3	2	2	4	3	3	3	2	Flint
POOL 16 SR	ZAMBIA	No	A	4	5	3	4	2	3	5	4	3	2	4	SDent
ZM301 BOTSWANA	BOTSWANA	No	A	3	4	3	2	1	3	5	4	3	3	4	SF/SD
ZM303	CIMMYT	No	A	2	3	3	4	2	2	4	2	3	3	4	SDent
ZM305	CIMMYT	No	A	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	3	3	SF/SD
ZM423	CIMMYT	No	A	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	4	3	SF/SD
GRACE	ECOLINK	No	B	3	2	5			3	3	5	4	2	3	SF/SD
KAFULA	MALAWI	No	B	3	3	3	2	4	3	3	3	4	3	3	SF/SD
KITO ST	TANZANIA	No	B	4	5	5		3	3	5	4	2	2	3	SF/SD
MACOMPO1	MALAWI	No	B	3	3	4	3	4	4	3	2	3	3	2	SF/SD
MATINDIRI	MALAWI	No	B	4	4	3		4	2	3	2	4	4	3	Flint
MATUBA	SEMOC	No	B	4	5	3	3	1	4	3	3	2	2	3	SFlint
ZM421	CIMMYT	No	B	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	SF/SD
ZM521	CIMMYT	No	B	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	SF/SD
ZM523	CIMMYT	No	B	1	1	2	1	3	1	1	1	3	3	2	SDent
CHITIBU	MALAWI	No	C	3	4	3		3	3	2	3	4	2	5	SFlint
KEP	BOTSWANA	No	C	4	4	4	2	5	3	2	3	5	3	3	Dent
MASIKA	MALAWI	No	C	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	SF/SD
POP 10	ZAMBIA	No	C	4	4	4	1	2	3	2	4	3	2	2	SFlint
S01SIWQ	CIMMYT	Yes	C	4	3	5	3	5	4	4	2	4	5	4	SF/SD
SUNDWE	MALAWI	No	C	4	5	4		2	3	2	3	4	2	5	SF/SD
TMV-1 SR	TANZANIA	No	C	3	4	4	1	1	5	3	5	3	2	4	Flint
ZM611	CIMMYT	No	C	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	3	4	1	SF/SD
ZM621	CIMMYT	No	C	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	3	3	SF/SD
KAKHOMERA	MALAWI	No	C	4	4	4		4	2	2	2	4	2	3	SF/SD
KILIMA SR	TANZANIA	No	D	3	5	4	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	SFlint
MCHOSANJALA	MALAWI	No	D	5	5	5			5	1	2	3	5	2	SFlint
OBATANPA	GHANA	Yes	D	5	4	5	3	3	3	5	4	3	2	5	SF/SD
POP 25	ZAMBIA	No	D	5	4	5	3	4	3	4	3	3	2	4	SFlint
STANA SR	TANZANIA	No	D	4	5	5	3	1	3	3	4	4	2	3	SF/SD
ZM623	CIMMYT	No	D	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	2	SDent

Here are the OPVs in group D

What is the meaning of these groups?

At any given site, Group A would be earlier maturing than Group B, Group B earlier maturing than Group C, and Group C earlier maturing than Group D.

These colors and numbers mean

- 1 Very good for this trait
- 2 Good for this trait
- 3 Average for this trait
- 4 Poor for this trait
- 5 Very poor for this trait

Legend for grain texture

- F Flint
- SF Semi-flint
- SF/SD Semi-flint/semi-dent
- SD Semi-dent
- D Dent

Step 5

Enquire with the seed producers about the availability of seed.

Contact	Company Name	Country	e-mail	Tel No	Fax No
Seed Companies (Regional representatives)					
John Kumwenda	Seed-Co	Malawi	seedco@malawi.net	265 1 712 062 /074	265 1 712 312
Bernhard Van Dyk	SEMOC	Mozambique	bernhard@mozambique.com	258 1 5123261/22850	258 1 460186
Andrew Taylor	Capstone Seed	South Africa	capstone.seed@nitrosolf.co.za	27 33 330 4474	27 33 330 3252
	Ecolink	South Africa	eco.link@mweb.co.za	27 13 751 2120	27 13 751 3281
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Willie Ranby	Prime Seed	Zimbabwe	prime@ecoweb.co.zw	263 4 501/2/ 485572/3	
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Disclaimer: The OPVs were rated based on collaborative trials conducted annually by national agricultural research programs, non-governmental organizations, private seed companies and CIMMYT across southern and eastern Africa over 1999-2003. Results are based on a minimum of two years' data. The information in this publication is based on results available at the time of publication. The varieties may perform differently if grown at other sites, or under different conditions, and certain varieties may be also produced by other seed producers.