



TOBACCO RESEARCH BOARD
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*Please address all
correspondence to
the Chief Executive Office*

05 May 2020

To: All Tobacco Growers

Dear Grower

RE: STALK DESTRUCTION REMINDER

Growers are reminded that, as per legislation, tobacco stalks must be destroyed before the 15th of May and that tobacco seed sowing may only commence on the 1st of June. This is done to enforce a tobacco-free period and break the life-cycles of tobacco pests and pathogens and thus protect subsequent crops. This is an especially effective method for managing aphids and aphid transmitted virus diseases such as Potato Virus-Y (PVY) and bushytop virus disease, which are very destructive and can significantly reduce yield and quality of tobacco.

In cases where there was late establishment of the crop due to the late onset of the rains, some growers may not be able to complete reaping before the stipulated date. These growers are advised to seek extension periods from the Department of Quarantine Services, Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Resettlement to prevent penalization, but should ensure stalks are destroyed as soon after the completion of reaping as possible. To minimize infection and proliferation of aphids and viral diseases, farmers are advised to be proactive and ensure efficient use of aphicides.

Growers are reminded that officials from TIMB, AGRITEX and Quarantine Services carry out routine inspections of grower's fields to ensure adherence to the legislated dates and non-compliant growers will be fined.

If you have any queries regarding the above, or require further information, please feel free to contact, Kutsaga Research Station's Plant Health Services Divisions on telephone (0242) 2575 289-94 or toll-free, 0800 4511 or Email: tobres@kutsaga.co.zw or visit Kutsaga Research Station, Airport Ring Road, Harare.

Yours faithfully,

Zimazile Jazi

Dr. C Chinheya
Head: Plant Health Services