



# MERU UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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University Examinations 2011/2012

FIRST YEAR, FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS FOR DIPLOMA/CERTIFICATE IN  
AGRICULTURE

**AGR 0120: PRINCIPLES OF CROP PRODUCTION**

**DATE: APRIL 2012**

**TIME: 1½ HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Answer question *one* and any other *two* questions

## QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- Briefly define the term agriculture (2 Marks)
- Name three importance of agriculture in Kenyan economy (3 Marks)
- Name and briefly explain three social (human) factors influencing agriculture in Kenya (6 Marks)
- Briefly describe the effect of planting delay (5 Marks)
- What are the advantages of asexual (seed) propagation (5 Marks)
- Give five reasons why a crop may be harvested before it reaches full maturity (5 Marks)
- What are the importances of organic manure as a component of soil (4 Marks)

## QUESTION TWO (15 MARKS)

- Name one method of making a compost manure and describe into details how it is done (12 Marks)
- Name three tools that are used in training and pruning (3 Marks)

## QUESTION THREE (15 MARKS)

Name and briefly describe five methods of fertilizer application (15 Marks)

## QUESTION FOUR (15 MARKS)

Name and outline with illustrations three types of layering as a way of propagation (15 Marks)

**QUESTION FIVE (15 MARKS)**

- a. Money maker variety of tomatoes are spaced at 100x 60cm calculate the number of plants which would be accommodated in half hectare piece of land (5 Marks)
- b. Give five advantages of compound fertilizer over straight fertilizer (5 Marks)
- c. Name three methods /kinds of training (3 Marks)
- d. What are the two main purposes of secondary tillage in land preparation(2 Marks)