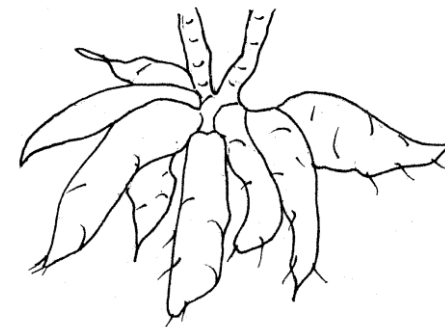


The density of planting will depend on whether the cassava is being planted for a pure stand crop in its second year or whether it is to be intercropped with other crops in the second year, and on whether the variety is spreading or more compact. If spacing is closer the leaves form a **canopy** that shades out the weeds in the second year. The cuttings should be cut into lengths of 20-30 cm then planted 1 X 1 m. If the cassava is to be intercropped spacing may be wider. Do not plant more than two cuttings in one place, as the density of plants will be too great.

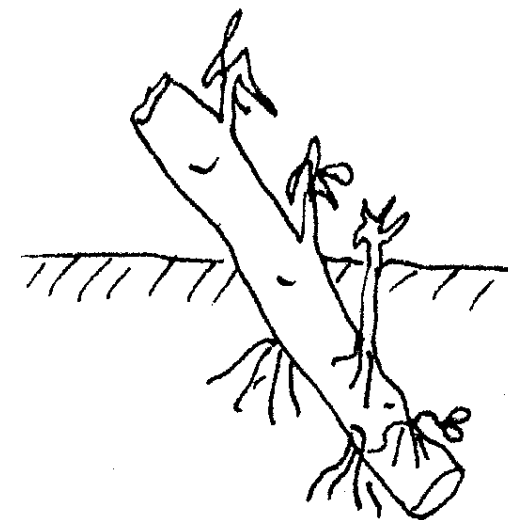
## PLANTING CASSAVA


Cassava can be grown on most soils, and will give some yield even on poor soils.

- It prefers light soils or deep well drained loamy soils.
- It is drought resistant and therefore can grow on poor soils.
- It cannot stand waterlogging as this causes the tubers to rot.



Cassava is normally planted from **stem cuttings** taken from stems at least ten months old. They should be healthy; otherwise the cuttings will produce unhealthy cassava. When cuttings are planted they sprout from the **nodes**, with roots developing below the ground and shoots both from below ground and



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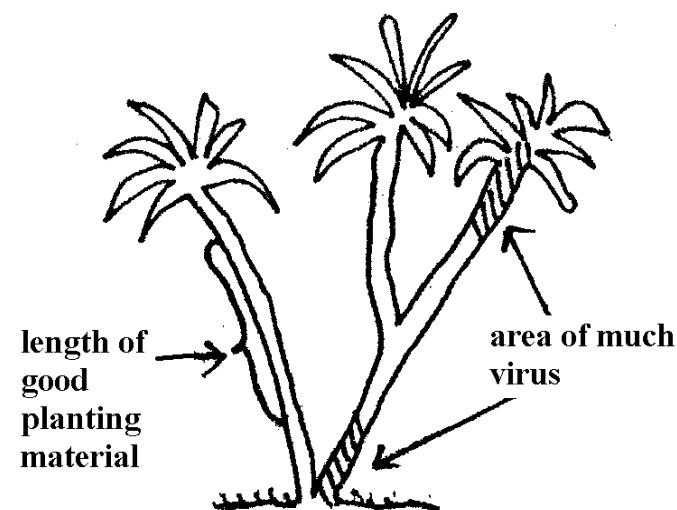
from the part of the cutting exposed. If many nodes on one cutting sprout many plants will be produced. The cuttings must be planted the right way up.



Cassava Mosaic Virus is a very widespread disease of cassava in Africa. By planting carefully it can be reduced. The method of planting described here is designed to reduce the effect of the virus. Cassava leaves on healthier plants are dark green, have an even shape and are smoother. Those affected by CMV are different shapes and are often withered and small, and have patches that are lighter green or yellow.

## HOW TO PLANT HEALTHIER CASSAVA CUTTINGS.

1. Chose cuttings from plants that have dark green smooth leaves, and not from those with curled yellow leaves.
2. Chose the cuttings in the old cassava field and cut the good ones ready there so that you do not have to carry the bad parts to the new fields.
3. Cut off the soft green part of the stem near the leaves, and the bottom part of the stem as these may have more virus. These must be thrown away in the old field.
4. Plant lengths of stem cut from the middle part.



5. When the cuttings start to grow pull out those that have yellow, deformed leaves and replant with new cuttings. Plants with severe CMV will never give much yield if left and will spread the virus infection to others.

Cassava mosaic is more noticeable in plants that are not growing strongly. At the time of planting they may have strong growth and not be so noticeable. So a farmer who is serious about selecting cuttings should observe the crop throughout the season to identify the best source of clean cuttings. If the best cuttings are planted together in one area, the farmer can over the years get cleaner and cleaner cuttings.