



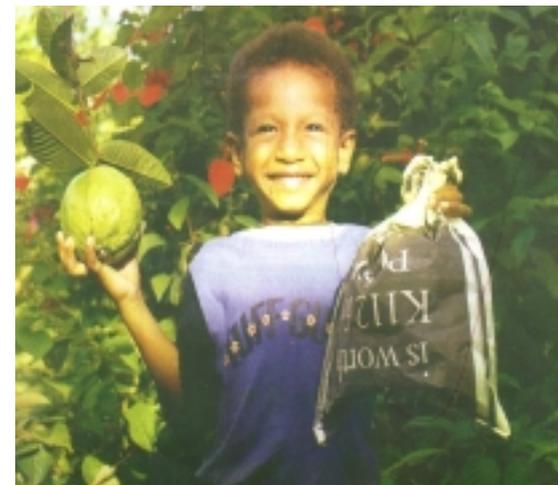
National Agricultural Research Institute

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FRUIT BAGGING AGAINST FRUIT FLIES



NARI TOKTOK
LAL010

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Introduction

Fruit flies cause serious damage to fruits and vegetables of wide range of crops. Some of these crops include guava, mango, banana, five corner and capsicum. However fruits can be easily protected by bagging them in newspaper bags. A bag provides a barrier between the host fruit and the female fly from laying eggs. People in Asia have used paper bags to bag fruits for more than 80 years and has been proven to be very successful.

Bagging is cheap, easy to make and effectively stops fruit fly damage. It is therefore recommended that you have your fruits bagged to prevent fruit fly damage.

Materials needed to make a newspaper bag

- Old newspapers
- Bush rope, string or twine
- Needle & cotton or staples

THE INSTITUTE

The National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) was established by an Act of National Parliament of Papua New Guinea in July 1996 as a publicly funded, statutory research organisation, to conduct applied and development oriented research on food crops, alternative food and cash crops, livestock and resource management issues. Besides applied and adaptive research, NARI is responsible for providing authoritative technical, analytical and diagnostic services and up-to-date information to the entire agriculture sector in PNG. The major targets are the smallholder semi-commercial farmers in the country.

The mission of NARI is to contribute, through applied research and technical services, to the development of the agriculture sector and realization of the national goals by identifying, adapting and transferring agricultural technologies and information, so as to:

- Enhance the productivity, efficiency and sustainability of the smallholder agriculture, and
- Improve farmer income, food security and welfare of Papua New Guineans and the Nation.

This toktok was written by Annastasia Kawi.
Pictures by PNGFFP and NARI Laloki,
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Plastic bag may be used. If used make four to five small holes at the bottom and sides of the bag to allow flow of air and drainage of water.



Plastic bag used on guava fruit.

How to prepare a bag

1. Use a double layer of newspaper sheets. A single layer breaks easily.



2. Fold the side and bottom of the sheet

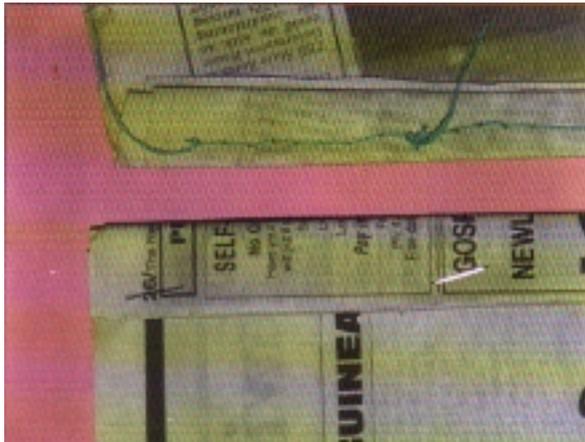


Side



Bottom

3. Sew the folded side and bottom



or Staple the folded side and bottom



Note:

Bag clean fruits. Do not bag very young or ripe fruits. If very young this will affect the growth of the fruits. If ripe it will already be damaged by fruit fly.

For guava, bag fruits when they are young as shown below.



Traditional bagging method used in certain areas of Papua New Guinea.



Bagged banana fruit

4. A bag is formed.



How to set up a bag

1. Blow into the bag to inflate it.



2. Insert fruit into bag.



3. Firmly tie top end of the bag with a rope or twine.



4. Push bottom of the bag to make it "V" shape.



It prevents damage by letting water runoff at edges and keeps the bag inflated.

Quality fruit at harvest

