

HOW What are the tips before planting rice?

1. Planning
2. Taking care of the land
3. Seed and seedling preparation
4. Planting and applying fertilizer
5. Eradication of weeds and pests
6. Harvesting

### Planning

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If you want to grow rice for your farm, the first step you need to take is planning. Depending on the size of the land you are planting, the investment you need may be large. Because of this, you can borrow capital from the bank.

Apart from the budget, you also need to make sure that the land you are planting is in the right condition. You can ask for help from the Bureau of Soils and Water Management under the Department of Agriculture so that you can have an idea of the condition of your land. With this, you will more easily know what you should do.

### Taking care of the land

Before you plant rice, you need to prepare the soil first so that your plants grow well and quickly. Your watering, plowing, harrowing, and embankment maintenance tasks include:

- Clean and repair embankments (dams or embankments). Make sure that there are no holes that can serve as habitat for mice or water passage.
- Irrigate the farm to grow the remaining seeds. Apart from this, the soil will also be moist and soft, so that it will be easier to till it.
- Plow the land. Use a plow and buffalo to plow the soil to a moderate depth. Let it dry for a week.
- Plow the soil again to bury the sprouted grass and rice. With this, you can avoid the mixture.
- Water the field again. Soak the soil for another week. Plow it once in a while and thresh three times to get the rice that hasn't rotted too much.

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## Weed and Pest Control

Weeds cause a bad effect on your rice crops. They will share nutrients, water, and soil space that should go to rice. Because of this, the quality and quantity of your harvest may decrease. To control weed growth, kill them within the first 40 days of your transplant.

Apart from this, pests are also a problem that can destroy your crops. To avoid them, it's good that you go along with planting a lot. Develop solutions to leaf-destroying, disease-spreading, and rice-eating pests — such as green leaf hoppers, snails, and mice.

## Harvesting

Before mowing, it is recommended to dry out your field for one to two weeks. There are two ways to harvest rice — by manual harvesting or using a harvesting machine. The benefit of using machinery is that it will ensure a cleaner harvest and prevent grain loss. It can also harvest rice in large areas faster.

If you harvest rice with no machinery, harvest it when 85% of the grain is ripe. If using a harvesting machine, make sure to mow only when 90-95% of the crop is harvested