1. GLIRICIDIA SEPIUM

Farmers’ preferences
An on farm survey carried out by Kiwia et al (2009) at the end of 2003 showed that farmers in 
western Kenya had a strong preference for gliricidia coppicing species because of the good 
maize yield following a gliricidia fallow. Out of the 40 farmers surveyed, over 80% had planted 
gliricidia trees in small plots and on their farm boundaries, all of who requested 
for more 
planting materials. Farmers also expressed great interest for gliricidia because of its good ground 
cover and weed control in a short period.

Gliricidia mixed intercropping with maize for improving soil fertility has been successfully 
tested in on-farm trials in Malawi (Akinnifesi et al., 2009). Farmers plant gliricidia in rows 
between maize and prune the trees during the maize growing season. Farmers realize significant 
maize yield increases beginning in the third year after planting.

Chintu et al (2004) carried out a study on propagation and management of gliricidia planted 
fallows in sub-humid Eastern Zambia. The study indicates that farmers prefer gliricidia 
coppicing to other species because high maize yields are attained when planted in farms where 
there is coppicing gliricidia.

Further reading

Akinnifesi, F.K., Sileshi, G., Franzel, S., Ajayi, O.C., Harawa, R., Makumba, W., Chakeredza S. 
other soil fertility management options used by smallholder farmers in southern Malawi. 


Kiwia, A. et al (2009). Coppicing improved fallows are profitable for maize production in striga 
infested soils of western Kenya. Agroforestry System 76 pp. 455-465