

Custard apple

April

- Ensure the soil suitability by digging of a profile pit of 3 X 3 X 3 ft.
- It can be cultivated in all types of soils including the poor, marginal and degraded soils.
- Collect soil sample for every one feet depth of soil from the suitable lands profile pit dug out.
- Based on soil test report, even if the soil PH is up to 7.5 it is considered as suitable for Custard apple plantation.

May

- Take up summer ploughing with MB plough twice and level the land.
- Alignment and peg marking for pit digging at 6X6 mtr. Spacing between the rows and plants should be given.(110 plants / acre) or at 5X4 mts. (200 plants / acre)
- Pit size to be followed is 60 X 60X 60 Cm.
- **Pit digging:** Dig the pits of 60X60X60 Cm size by placing the top soil to the right side and the bottom soil to the left side of the pit.
- Allow the pit for exposure to sun at least for two weeks before filling the pits to control soil born pest and diseases.
- Make arrangements for procurement of plant material from reliable nurseries preferably from Govt. nurseries or from nurseries recommended by department of horticulture.
- Select high yielding varieties like Balanagar or Hybrid varieties like Arkasahans or FRS – Selection 1 (Atemoya X Balanagar).

June

- Pit filling – fill the pits with top soil + 20 kgs of Farm Yard Manure (FYM) + 1 kg Single Super Phosphate and 100 gm. of 10% Follidol dust per pit.
- Fill the pits with the soil at least 6” above the ground level so that when the soil settles it will be at the ground level at planting.
- Ensure thorn fencing or with any thick growing live fence to control cattle trespassing.

- Give mark out for trench cutting and complete the trench cutting for drip installation.
- With the onset of monsoon farmers can sow intercrops.

July

- Procure the grafts of recommended varieties from the selected nurseries by the farmers in coordination with CIG group members.
- Arrange for transportation of plant material from nursery to the planting site.
- Keep the grafts near water source and water them regularly till planting is done.
- If there is any delay in receipt of good rains the pits should be soaked by giving irrigation or by running the drip system. Ensure that the soil in the pit is at ground level other wise level the soil in pits.
- Plant the grafts by keeping in the centre of the pit without disturbing the ball of earth around the root system.
- Water the plant immediately after planting and give a support stick.
- Irrigate the plants at every week to 10 days interval during the first month and later at 10 to 15 days interval if there are no rains during the initial two years.

August

- Weeding should be done at least once in a month during monsoon season to control weeds. Simultaneously the basins around the plant should be made to retain water.
- To avoid Evapo-transpiration losses, mulch the basins with paddy husk or paddy straw or ground nut shells. Mulching also help in the control of weeds in the basins.
- Remove the side shoots which appear from the base of the plant on root stalk.
- Prune the lower branches up to a height of 2 to 3 feet to obtain a perfect shape.

September

- Work out the soils in the basin to keep weed free and improve aeration.

October

- **Gap filling** – If any gaps are noticed due to death of plants should be replaced by taking up gap filling.

- Prune the side shoots which appear from time to time on the root stalk and remove side branches up to the height of 2 to 3 feet.
- Cut the growing shoot to encourage lateral branches.
- If inter crop during June-July is not cultivated, farmers can sow inter crops for rabi season during this month.

November

- Soil working in the basins and mulching to be done.
- Prune the side shoots which appear from time to time on the root stalk and remove side branches up to the height of 2 to 3 feet.
- Ensure regular irrigations at 10 to 15 days interval.

December

- Leaf fall may take place due to low winter temperature.
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January

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February

- Irrigate the plants at 7 to 10 days interval regularly.
- Stem and shoot borer incidence will be severe during this month.
- Check up each and every plant periodically by going round the orchard. If any damage to growing shoots is noticed prevent them by pulling out the borers from the holes of the damaged shoots and injecting petrol or kerosene into the damaged holes and plugging the holes with mud or clay.
- Keep the basins weed free and apply 10 gms of Phorate granules / plant.

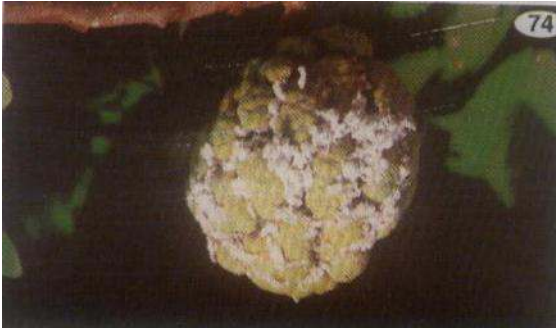
March

- Apply one basket full of mulch material to control evapo transpiration loses and weed growth in basins.

April

- Ensure regular irrigation through drip or at least once in 7 to 10 days interval through basins irrigation.

- The tender shoots will be infected with mealy bugs. Control them by spraying Acephate 1gm/lit or Dichlorovas 1ml/lit of water.



Mealy bug

May

- Ensure regular irrigation through drip or at least once in 7 to 10 days interval through basins irrigation.
- Take up summer ploughing to improve soil health.