

SAPOTA

April

- Ensure the soil suitability by digging up a profile pit of 3 X 3 X 3 ft. Observe the soil for presence of any calcareous nodules or sheet rock. If the lime nodules or sheet rock is present avoid such soils for taking up plantations.
- Avoid ill drained and water logging soils.
- Collect soil sample for every one foot depth of soil from the profile pit dug out and send the sample for analysis to the nearest soil testing lab.
- Based on soil test report, even if the soil PH is moderately high ie 8.0 to 8.5 considered as suitable for sapota plantation.
- Subsurface water table in the soil should be below 2.5 mts.

May

- Take up summer ploughing with MB plough two to three times to get fine tilth and level the land.
- Alignment and peg marking should be given for pit digging at 9x9 mtr (50plants/acre) in light soils and at 10x10 mtr in heavy soils (40 plants/acre)
- Pit digging – While digging the pit keep the top 1.5 foot soil to the right side of the pit and the bottom 1.5 foot soil to the left side of the pit and allow the pit to expose to sun at least for two weeks before filling the pits to control soil born pest and diseases.
- **Pit size** should be 90x90x90cms
- Make arrangements for procurement of plant material from reliable nurseries preferably from Govt. nurseries or from nurseries recommended by department of horticulture.

June

- Pit filling – fill the pits with top soil mixed with 50 kgs of Farm Yard Manure (FYM) + 1Kg Single Super Phosphate + 1 kg Neem Cake and 100 gm. Of 10% Follidol dust per pit.
- Fill the pits with the soil atleast 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 inter crops.

July

- Procure the plant material from the selected nurseries by the farmers in coordination with CIG group members.
- At the time of procurement, ensure that quality of plant material to avoid losses in future.
 - Select only vineer grafts.
 - The graft should be atleast 1 year old with 4 to 6 flushes having 50 to 75 cms height.
 - Graft union should be perfect and atleast 6'' above the soil in the poly bag.
 - The sapling should be healthy and free from pest and diseases without any side shoots on the root stock.
- Arrange for transportation of plant material from nursery to the planting site.
- Keep the saplings 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.
- Remove the polythin sheet carefully from the graft union and plant by keeping the sapling in the centre of the pit without disturbing the earth of ball around the root system and ensure the graft union is 6'' above the ground level after planting.
- Stake the plant with strong support stick of 3to 4 ft.lenth. To avoid termite attack dip the bottom of the stick in black tar.
- Water the plant immediately after planting.
- Irrigate the plants at every7 to 10 days interval.

August

- Since sapota is a very slow growing hardy plant the new flushes may start in 4 to 6weeks time. Protect the new growth from the attack of leaf eating caterpillar or leaf webber by spraying Quinolphos or Endosulphon @ 2 ml./lt. of water once in a month.
- Weeding should be done atleast once in two months during monsoon season to control weeds.

- Plough the inter spaces with blade –harrow or cultivator to keep the land weed free.
- 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 on the root stock.
- Leaf spot diseases generally appear when heavy rains are received during Aug.-Sept . control by spraying Copper Oxy Chloride (Blitox) @ 3 gm./lt. of water. If not controlled in time twig drying (Die back) leading to death of plants will take place.

September

- If the **termite** attack is seen to the support stick, spray Chloropyriphos (Termex-C) @ 5 ml./lt. of water. to the stem and support stick. Also drench the basins with the above chemical.
- Prune the side branches arising from the main trunk at ground level.

October

- **Gap filling** – If any gaps are noticed due to death of plants replant by taking up gap filling.
- Remove the side shoots which appear on the root stock.
- In high rain fall zones - planting can be done in Oct.- Nov.,
- If inter crop during June-July is not cultivated farmers can sow inter crops for rabi season during this month.
- Apply about 100 gms of DAP in the basins and irrigate immediately.

November

- Soil working in the basins and mulching with dry leaves or paddy straw to be done to control evapo- transpiration losses and weed growth.
- Remove the side shoots which appear on the root stock.
- Water the plants regularly at 8 to 10 days interval.

December

- Spray COC 3 gms /lt + Endosulphon 2 ml/lt to control Cercospora leaf spot and leaf vebber.

January

- Give a second spray with Endo sulphon @ 2ml/lt.
- Water the plants regularly at 8 to 10 days interval.

February

- Water the plants at 8 to 10 days interval regularly.
- Apply Bordeaux Paste on the trunk upto height of 30 to 45 cm. to avoid frequent incidence termites and any other fungal diseases.

March

- Water the plants at 8 to 10 days interval regularly.
- Apply one basket full of dry leaf mulch or paddy straw to control evapotranspiration losses and weed growth in basins.

April

- Ensure regular irrigation through drip or atleast once in 5 to 7 days interval through basins irrigation,
- Hoeing and munching should be done to keep the soil loose and friable.

May

- Ensure regular irrigation through drip or atleast once in 5 to 7 days interval or through basins irrigation,
- Soil working to create soil mulch.

June

- If good soaking rains are received apply 100 gms of urea 125 gms single super phosphate and 125 gms of MOP along with 50 to 60 Kgs of FYM in the basins 60 cms away from the trunk.
- Plough the inter spaces and sow green manure crops like Sunn-hemp or Cow-pea.
- If monsoon is delayed application of manures and sowing of green manure crops can be taken up in july.