



Package of Practices of
Mentha piperata
(Pepper mint)



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Mentha

Introduction : Mint species are an annual plant with an average height of 70 - 100 cm. The whole plants are used for distillation of essential oil.

Variety : Kukrail

Climate : Subtropical to moderate climate.

Soil : Mint grows well in nutrient rich loamy soil with pH ranging from 6 - 7.5. Well drained soil with good holding capacity is suitable for its cultivation.

Land preparation : The soil should be ploughed and harrowed thoroughly in order to have a fine seed bed. If planted in paddy field, the crop is planted immediately after harvesting of paddy when the soil is still damp.

Planting and propagation :

Pepper Mint are propagated through runner. In direct sowing method, 3-4 quintals/Ha planting material is required for direct planting and 80 - 100 kg/ha suckers required for raising nursery. In rainfed condition, October - November however is the best time to plant in paddy field. The plant is planted at the spacing of 60×45 cm and 2.5 - 5.0 cm deep.

Manures : If planted in nutrient rich soil, no manure is required however FYM can be applied to nutrient poor soil.

Irrigation : Mint is a water loving plant. Therefore, frequent irrigation is required for better growth and yield. Irrigation can be given at the interval of 10-15 days and stopped at 10-15 days before harvesting.

Inter culture and weed control : Weeds are the problem to the mint growers as it affects both herb and oil yields to a great extent. In the absence of proper and timely weed control, may cause 60 - 80 % loss in oil yield. Weeding is required after 5 - 6 weeks of planting. This is repeated once or twice depending upon the nature and the extent of weeds. Light hoeing with the help of spade or hand hoe is more helpful in increasing the production of mint. Planted in paddy field helps.



Land Preparation

Crop rotation : Continuous cropping of any of the mint is not advisable as it result into considerable increase in weed population, soil borne diseases and insects. Transplanting of paddy in crop rotation system minimize the weed interference and also helps in reducing the soil borne diseases. Mint can also be intercrop with Vetiver. This helps in retaining soil moisture.

Harvesting : Harvesting is done after 90 - 120 days when the lower leaves start yellowing and upper leaves become small. Ideal time for harvest is In spearmint at flowering stage and in other varieties when upper leaves appears small and lower leaves are turning yellowish in color.

Distillation : Steam distillation is required for extraction of the oil from whole plant. It has been proved that storage and shade drying of herbs before distillation is beneficial.

Oil Yield : For two harvest :- Pepper mint : 60 - 80 Kg/ha/year



Mentha plantation