

PACKAGE OF PRACTICES

CROP: SPONGE GOURD

Sl. No.	Particulars/operations /Practice	Details of operation
1	Suitability for the area/ Agro climatic zone	A long warm period with day 30-35°C temp, 18-22°C night temp is good for growth and fruit set. Minimum temp. should not be below 18°C
2	Land / Soil	Well drained sandy loams and alluvial soils. Soil pH 5.5 to 7 is ideal.
3	Season/Sowing time	Oct-Nov in south and central India. Jan-Feb-June-July in Maharashtra. April –May in hilly areas
4	Seed rate	1-1.25 kg./ Ha canal method/ by staking method
5	Preparation of Main field and planting	Apply 10 tones of decomposed FYM followed by harrowing to mix in the soil. * Form sowing canals * Apply basal dose of fertilizers in sowing canals and cover the fertilizer * Irrigate the field two days prior to sowing. * Dibble two seed per hill, immediately give light irrigation for quick and better Germination
6	Spacing	Row to Row(canal) 105 to 120 cm Plant to plant: 45cm-50 cm. and between rows 30 cm between plants-staked with bamboo stakes and trailed vertically
7	Seed treatment before sowing	Seed treatment with Gaucho(Imida) 2 ml/kg
8	Manures and Fertilizers	* Basal dose before sowing : 30:40:40 Kg NPK * First top dressing 30 days after sowing: 30kg N * Second top dressing after first pick : 25 kg N Apply 10 kg Furadan along with basal fertilizer
9	Irrigation schedule	Irrigate field depending on soil type. Light and frequent irrigation once in 5-6 days interval. Ensure sufficient moisture at root zone especially during flowering fruit stage
10	Weeding/ inter-cultivation	Two hand weeding is required. Keep plots free of weed. Earthing up at 30 and 60 days after sowing. vine guiding
11	Micronutrient/growth regulator sprays	Spray multiplex 1g/lit during fruiting stage Micronutrient 1g/lit during flowering period
12	Pest and Disease control	Powdery Mildew: Karathane 1.0ml/Lit. Downy mildew/Anthracnose: Ridomil 2g/lit Leaf miner: Triazophos(Spark) 1.0 ml/Lit Red pumpkin beetle: Thiamethoxam 1ml/lit Sucking pest: Confidor 0.3ml/Lit, Actapride 1.0 ml/lit Fusarium Wilt: Drench 0.2% Bavistin Fruit fly: Use pheromone traps. Delta mithrin 1ml/l
13	Expected yield	Fruits ready for 1 st harvest 65 days after sowing. Harvest tender fruits once in 4 days. Yields 7-8t/ha from a well managed crop.