

STANDARD CULTIVATION PROCEDURE FOR GUDUCHI

INTRODUCTION:→ *Tinospora cordifolia* (Guduchi) belongs to Family – Menispermaceae. It's a large extensively spreading, perennial woody climber with succulent stems. Leaves simple, alternate, cordate-ovate; flowers unisexual dioecious, yellow. Fruit of 3 shortly stalked subglobose drupes. The plant occurs throughout tropical regions of India extending from Kumaon to Assam and Myanmar, Konkan to Sri Lanka. It is a large climber which grows over the highest trees in the forests and throws out aerial roots which reach the length of 10 metres, though not thicker than pack-thread. It is commonly used in the management of fevers. It is one of the important herbs for the management of gouty arthritis. At present it is found to exhibit immunomodulatory, anti-oxidant, memory enhancing, lithotriptic, anti-inflammatory etc activities.

CULTIVATION: →

SOIL AND CLIMATE: - It grows well in almost any type of soils and under varying climatic conditions.

PROPAGATION: - Guduchi can be cultivated by both Seedling Transplantation and direct Transplantation of Stem Cuttings in the field. It requires some support preferably Neem and Mango trees, such plants are supposed to possess better medicinal values.

Nursery Raising & Planting: The plant is cultivated by stem cutting in the month of May-June. The nursery duration for these plants is up to one and half months. Semi hard wood cuttings of pencil thickness with 4-8 nodes are planted in June-July. They are initially planted in polybags with a slant with two nodes inside the soil. In the first year, a support plant for this climber has to be grown. When the plants are about one year old, cuttings have to be planted beside it.

Through Stem Cuttings: The plant is cultivated by stem cutting in the month of May-June. It requires some support preferably neem and mango trees. It is quite easy to propagate that even if a twig is placed on a branch of a tree, it establishes itself as a giant climber in a couple of years. Seeds if soaked in cold water for 24 hours germinate fast. The treated seeds are sown in polybags during May-July. Germination takes place in 10-12 days with 80-90 per cent success. In case of fresh seeds without any pre soaking, only 30-35 per cent germination is obtained.

WEEDING AND HOEING: - Periodical hoeing is done, both in the nursery and field as per requirement.

MANURES, FERTILISERS AND PESTICIDES: - The medicinal plants have to be grown without chemical fertilizers and use of pesticides. Organic manures like, Farm Yard Manure (FYM), Vermi-Compost, Green Manure etc. may be used as per requirement of the species. To prevent diseases, bio-pesticides could be prepared (either single or mixture) from Neem (kernel, seeds & leaves), Chitrakmool, Dhatura, Cow's urine etc.

IRRIGATION: - The field after plantation should be irrigated periodically as and when required weekly or fortnightly.

HARVESTING/POST HARVESTING OPERATION: - Mature plants are collected, cut into small pieces and dried in shade.

YIELD: - Approximately 6 to 8 Qtls / Hectare.