

# Lemongrass

## Propagation

### **By Seeds**

The common method employed in Kerala State is from seeds. The crop flowers during November-December and seeds are collected during January-February. For collection of seeds, the plants are left without harvest as the yield of seeds from plants subjected to regular harvest is less. On an average, a healthy plant gives about 100-200 g of seeds. At the time of seed collection, the whole inflorescence is cut and spread in the sun for drying for 2-3 days. These are then thrashed and seeds are again dried in the sun. These are finally stored in gunny bags. The seeds lose their viability if stored for a longer period.

### **Raising of Seedlings in Nursery**

It is advantageous to raise the plantation through transplanting of seedlings whenever there is assured source of water. The transplanting of nursery raised seedlings is found to be superior to direct sowing of seeds.

The seeds are sown by hand on well prepared raised beds of 1m to 1.5m width at the onset of monsoon and are covered with thin layer of soil. Recommended seed rate is 3-4kg/ha. The bed should be watered immediately after sowing and care should be taken to maintain adequate moisture in the soil. Seed germinates in 5-6 days and the seedlings are ready for transplanting at the age of 60 days.

### **By Rooted Slips**

For better quality and yield of oil it is recommended to grow lemon grass by slips obtained by dividing well-grown clumps. Tops of clumps are cut off within 20-25 cm of the root. The latter is divided into slips and the lower brown sheath is removed to expose young roots.