

Mint

Propagation

Mint can be planted in the field in the following ways :

1. by means of underground vegetative parts called suckers or stolons ,
2. through propagules/ seedlings. Where mint is to be planted early in the season, stolons are used as the planting material.
3. In case of spearmint, pepper mint and bergamot mint, sometimes runners are also used for planting.
4. In the case of late planting, first the stolons are densely planted in nursery to produce propagules / plantlets / seedlings which in turn are transplanted in the field.

Production of Stolons

The plot should preferably be the best piece of land. Around 200 Sq. M Plot is required to produce stolons for 1 hectare. Mature plants of chosen variety brought from a high quality nursery/ CIMAP should be planted at 30 X 30 cm or should have been produced by farmer himself. Care should be taken that the mother plants of the area of previous crop from which they are to be taken should not be allowed to produce seeds; the flowers if formed should be deliberately removed. This way purity of the planting material will be maintained. The nursery for the stolons is planted in August. The nursery is given frequent irrigation avoiding stagnation of water. Stolons are ready for use during the months of December and January. To obtain the stolons under the ground in the nursery, the soil is opened manually or mechanically. The stolons can be used immediately or within a fortnight or so.

Production of Seedlings

The land to be chosen to raise the seedling nursery should also be of good quality soil and well drained. About 200-sq. m of land is required to produce seedlings for planting one hectare of land. In the late February or early March, the nursery for raising the seedling is sown. The stolons are dug out from the nursery and are chopped to pieces of about one inch size. The seed bed in which the stolons pieces are sown should have sufficient quantities of farmyard manure (FYM). Such bed is filled with water and puddled. The chopped stolons are further broadcast into the beds. @ About 100 kg/ 200 sq. m of seedbed. To speed up the growth of stolons, they should be covered with some soil and mulching material. The stolons generally sprout in about two weeks time. The plants bearing upto six leaves should be chosen for transplanting in late March to early April