

Patchouli

Propagation

Raising Seedlings in Nursery

Patchouli is propagated vegetatively. Since the crop is highly susceptible to nematode attack, it is advisable to adopt phytosanitary measures from nursery stage itself.

Seed pans or polythene bags are filled with well-heated sand, which can be made by passing steam through it for about one hour. If this is not practicable for a grower, the sand should be treated with suitable nematicide like Furadan @ 20 kg/ha (active ingredient 3%). Dasanit @150 kg/ha (active ingredient 5%) is also very effective.

Nursery that has to be under shade could be raised at any time during the year. Cuttings are prepared preferably in the morning or in the evening to minimise desiccation. Cuttings are taken from healthy stock and as far as possible from the apical region. Cuttings from fairly developed branches, 4-5 nodes in length and with a crown of 2-3 leaves, are ideal for planting in nursery. The basal end of the cutting should be neatly cut in oblique form just about 1 cm below the node. Application of a commercial hormone like Seradix B-2 to the basal end of the cutting encourages early rooting. The cuttings should then be planted in seed pans, nursery beds or in polythene bags with the help of a suitable dibbler at a spacing of about 5 cm. Aeration, partial shade and regular watering are essential for early rooting. The cuttings take about 30-35 days for rooting in nursery.