

Mango

Planting

Prior to planting, field should be deeply ploughed, harrowed and levelled. The planting distance varies according to variety, the fertility level of the soil and general growth conditions in the area. Where the growth is excessive, the distance should be 12 x 12m, but in the dry zones where the growth is less, it can be regulated to about 10 x 10m. For high density planting, the distance can be 5 x 3 or 5 x 2.5 or 3 x 2.5 or 2.5 x 2.5m.

In locations where the soil is loamy and deep, pits of 0.5 x 0.5 x 0.5m be dug at desired distances. However, in shallow and hill soils, the pits should be of 1 x 1 x 1 m size. The pits should be filled with the original soil mixed with 50 kg well rotten FYM. In the top two-third portion, the proportion of the manure and soil may be kept as 1:3. If the soil is having infestation of white ants, 200-250 g of Aldrex or BHC 5 per cent dust may also be mixed. The pits should invariably be filled before the rainy season, so that there is maximum settling down before the advent of heavy rainfall.

The best time for planting all over India is during the monsoon season when the humidity level is high. In the area of heavy rainfall, the best time of planting mango is the end of the rainy season. In tracts where the rainfall is less, the planting can be done in the early part of the monsoon season for better establishment. The planting should be done in the evening. If the sky is overcast, planting can be done during daytime also.

The plant with earth ball intact should be taken out of the polythene bag or pot. The plant can then be placed in the centre of the pit by excavating as much soil as necessary to accommodate the earth ball or root ball. The moist soil of the pit is then pressed all around the root ball to complete the planting process. A small basin is then made and the plant is properly watered. The planting should not be done so deep as to bury the graft-union in the soil or so high as to expose the upper roots. It is always better to adjust it at the same height/depth at which it was in the pot/polythene bag.