

Papaya

Intercultural Operations

Thinning

The papaya plants start flowering after 6- 7 months of transplanting. At flowering, excess plants are to be removed keeping only one plant in each pit and maintaining a female: male plant ratio of 10: 1. Care should be taken to keep the male plants well spread in the field for effective pollination.

Weed control

Being a shallow rooted plant, weeds compete with papaya plants for nutrition.

Therefore regular weeding is essential for vigorous plant growth. Weeding is usually done by hoeing or tilling. Use of herbicides like Diuron @2.0-2.5 kg a.i./ha or Glyphosate @1-2 kg a.i./ha were effective in controlling the weeds in papaya orchards. Care should be taken while spraying so as to avoid spilling of the herbicides on papaya leaves.

Intercropping

Vegetables may be grown as an intercrop before the plants start fruiting. It is not advisable to grow any intercrop once the plants started bearing. Crops like mung, udid, onion, horse gram and leafy vegetables are suitable for growing as intercrops.