

Pineapple

Manuring & Fertilization

Pineapple plants require heavy manuring. It can absorb nitrogen in the form of ammonia. Ammonia Sulphate, therefore, is the best fertilizer for it. Application of 20 to 30 tons of cow dung manure during the first six months is recommended. It is recommended to give N and K_2O at 12 g each per plant. If soils are poor in phosphorus, 4 g of P_2O_5 / plant can be given. Nitrogen should be applied in 6 split doses at bimonthly intervals. The first dose of Nitrogen is given 2 months after planting. Potash should be given in 2 splits. Entire phosphorus and half the dose of potash can be given at the time of planting and the remaining potash 6 months after planting. Application of fertilizer in rainfed areas has to be done when moisture is available (AICFIP).

Sometimes zinc deficiency appears in pineapple which leads to a condition called Crookneck. Spraying of 0.5 per cent zinc sulphate can prevent it.

Since pineapples flower erratically, forcing of flowers is a common practice. This is done chemically by use of growth regulators which induces flowering and subsequent fruiting. Following growth regulators are recommended for different months to induce flowering -

Month	Growth regulators/Concentration
September-January	NAA 10 ppm (Planofix 1 ml/4.5 litres of water)
March-May	Ethrel 10 ppm (2.5 ml/100 litres of water) + 2% urea + 0.04% sodium carbonate
All months	Ethrel 25 ppm (6.5 ml/100 litres of water) + 2% urea + 0.04% sodium carbonate.

The mixture is to be poured into the heart of the plant at 50ml per plant. After the growth regulator treatment plants will take 45-50 days to put forth the inflorescence. If it rains within 24-36 hours after the application of the chemical the treatment should be repeated. Plants with 35-39 active leaves are optimum to force it to flower by treating with growth regulators.