

# Pineapple

## Propagation

Pineapple is very easy to propagate vegetatively. Suckers arising in the axil of the leaves on the main stem form roots and can be used for propagation. Even the crown of leaves above the fruit and parts of the stem itself can be used. Another method of propagation is by slips, which are the suckers, arising immediately below the fruit. Suckers and slips should be preferred for planting as they come to bearing earlier than the crown and produce larger fruits.

Before planting, suckers are sorted out into larger, medium and small to avoid competition between plants of different sizes. Too large suckers or slips should not be used for planting. Suckers weighing 400-500g or slips of 350-450g are considered suitable as planting material. Prior to planting curing of slips and suckers for 8-10 days in shade is necessary as fresh suckers planted in moist soil begin to decay. Before planting some of the lower leaves are removed from the sucker to facilitate the formation and entry of roots into the soil. After removing scaly leaves, planting material should be treated with Monocrotophos (0.15%) and Carbendazim (0.1%) solution to protect against mealy bugs and heart rot, respectively.