

Cauliflower

Intercultural Operations

Weed Control :

Normally, the crop is kept free of weeds by 2-3 hand weedings and 1-2 hoeings. Hoeing should not be deep to avoid injury to the roots. Usually in medium heavy and clay soils, there is crust formation soon after transplanting. This crust must be broken otherwise water and air penetration in root system is hindered which will adversely affect plant growth.

Pre-emergence application of Fluchloralin (1-2 litres a.i. in 600-700 litres of water) or Nitrofen (2kg a.i./ha) followed by a hand weeding 60 days after transplanting effectively checks the weed population.

Earthing up :

Earthing up is done 30 days after transplanting. At the time of earthing up the plants are supported with soil to avoid toppling of the plant during head formation. During rainy season, the roots of plants in ridge planting get exposed. Adequate earthing up covers such exposed roots.

Blanching :

This problem generally occurs in early and mid season maturity group with spreading and open plant type. Blanching is an important operation to protect the curds from yellowing due to direct exposure to sun. The curds may also lose some of their flavor because of this exposure. To avoid this, the tips of the leaves are drawn in and tied together or the curds are covered with leaves 4-5 days prior to harvest. In some varieties the curd remains naturally protected and surrounded by inner whorls of leaves. These are called self-blanching types.