

Vetiver

Harvesting

Stage of harvest in vetiver has a definite bearing on the oil yield. Normally the crop is harvested after 15 and 18 months of sowing when the oil content in the root is highest. Thus a crop planted in July is ready for harvest in September-October next year. A light irrigation is given to the field to facilitate digging. During digging the aerial parts of the growing plants are cut off from ground level and roots are dugout in rows. This digging operation is highly labour intensive. Mechanical digging helps in increasing the yield by 15% and saving on labour cost significantly. After cleaning, the roots are separated from the stump and dried in shade for 5 to 7 days to reduce the moisture content to about 10 %.

Yield

An average yield of roots from a well managed crop is 14 q/ha. A recovery of 1% of oil is considered satisfactory.