

Guava

Intercultural Operations

Weed Control

The orchard should be kept always free from weeds. During rainy season, weeding is done periodically. Light harrowing can check the weeds effectively. The weed growth around the seedlings should be kept down and used as a mulch.

Intercropping

Vegetables and leguminous crops like peas, cowpea and gram can be successfully grown as intercrops

Bahar Treatment

There are three distinct flowering seasons with corresponding harvesting periods-rainy, winter and spring. It is desirable to take only one crop in a year. In South India the rainy season crop is preferred even though it is of poor quality, since the price is high at this time. In North India, winter crop is of better quality and the fruits also escape the attack of white flies.

In Western India, root pruning of guava to regulate the season of harvesting, as is done in the case of mandarins, is recommended in heavy soils only. In lighter soils, withholding of water serves the purpose. This practice is known as **bahar treatment**.

Bahar	Month		
	Water stress	Flowering	Fruiting
Ambe bahar (February)	December-January	February-March	July-August
Hasta bahar(October)	August-September	October-November	March-April
Mrig bahar (June)	3 rd week of April	June-July	November-December

Use of Growth Regulators

Fruit-Set

About 80-90 per cent flowers of guava set fruit initially of which 35 to 60 per cent reaches maturity. The formation of fruit-set is noticed after 10-12 days of flowering. Spraying of GA3 at 15 to 30 ppm increased the fruit-set.

Crop Regulation

Different thinning chemicals, like NAA, NAD, 2,4-D, DNOC and urea are effective in deblossoming rainy-season flowers and fruitless and subsequent increase of winter crop. Spraying of NAA (50-100 mg/l) 2,4-D (50-100 mg/l) \ ONOC (5-10 mg/l) or urea at 10 per cent during April was effective to thin the summer seasons flowers and increased yield in winter.

Training and Pruning

Training is done primarily to give form to the tree. For development of a strong framework the first 60 to 90 cm from the base of the trunk should be cleaned followed by 4 to 5 scaffold branches at an interval of 20-25 cm. When the plants attained a height of about 1.5m to 1.8 m, it is headed back to make the center open. In some parts of India (Maharashtra and South Bengal), the branches are bent downward and tied to each other. Thus forcing the dormant buds to grow. This results in increased yields.

The trees are rarely pruned in North India, but light annual pruning after harvesting to promote vegetative growth and flowering is desirable. All dead, diseased, crowded growth and suckers sprouting from the base and sides of the framework are pruned back annually. Pruned trees give larger fruits and early ripening