

Irrigation-

During summer season, 5-6 irrigations at an interval of 20-25 days should be provided.

Intercultural Operations-

Earthing-up: It is an essential operation which prevent lodging of plants due to heavy rainfall.

Weeding: It should be done at least three to four time a year . Hand weeding can be partially eliminated by chemical weedicide, diuron@3kg/ha as per emergence spray can be used economically in the first year to control broad spectrum of weeds in pineapple field.

Mulching-

Dry leaves or Paddy straw is used as a mulching material .Mulching with polythene and saw dust has been found to be effective. The maturing fruits may be covered with mulching material (Paddy straw or pineapple leaves) in order to reduce both sun burn and damage caused by the birds.

Flowering-

There are two main seasons of flowering , March – April and June-July, sporadic flowering may take place in other periods also. Fruits usually ripe about 5 months after flowering.

Application of Growth Regulators –

Flowering is not uniform and for uniform flowering application of NAA (200-300ppm) should be done after 2-3 months of fruit set period and this application helps in increasing of fruit size by 15-20%.

Plant Protection Measures-

Insect Pest-Mealy bug: The nymphs and adults suck juice from leaves and tender shoots. Need based application of monocrotophos@1g/L of water at vegetative stage can be taken up.

Diseases-

Heart rot and Stem / Root rot: The affected plants leaves turn yellowish green and tips turn brown colour.. In the later stage, central whole of leaves comes out easily with a gentle pull. The disease can be controlled by adopting measures such as proper drainage, selection of good quality planting material and treatment of planting material with Indofil M-45 (3g/L water).

Harvesting-

The fruits should be harvested with a sharp knife retaining 5-7 cm of the stalk along with the fruit. The crown should be trimmed to less than 10 cm. The cut end of the stalk may be dipped in 10% solution of benzoic acid to check the growth of the fungus.

Production

Small Varieties- 5 – 6 Tonnes/ bigha

Kew variety - 12 – 14 Tonnes/ bigha

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Commercial Cultivation Of Pineapple



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Pineapple (*Ananas comosus* L.)

Family- Bromeliaceae

Origin- Brazil

Major growing countries- Brazil, Thailand, Philippines, China.

Major growing states- West Bengal, Tripura, Kerala, Meghalaya, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Introduction-

Pineapple is one of the commercially important fruit crops of NEH region. Its pleasant flavor and exquisite taste qualifies pineapple as one of the choicest fruits throughout the NEH region. Fruits are eaten fresh as well as processed in different forms (juice, squash, jams, jelly, etc). It is rich in Vitamins (A, B and C,) and Minerals (Calcium, Magnesium, Potassium and Iron) besides a good source of bromelin a digestive enzyme.

Soil-

A well drained sandy loam soil of pH 5.5- 6.5. with no water logging conditions.

.Climate-

It is a tropical crop but also thrives well in subtropical climate. It can not tolerate adverse climatic conditions like frost.

- Optimum Temperature:- 22^o C - 30^o C.
- Optimum Rainfall:- 100-150 cm/annum
- Altitude- 1100 m above Mean Sea Level (MSL).

Varieties-

Giant Kew, Kew, Queen, Mauritius etc.

Propagation-

Planting materials used for propagation are given below-

Planting Materials	Maturity Time
1. Suckers (500-600g) most commonly used	15-18 Months
2. Slips (350-400 g)	20-22 Months
3. Crowns	24 Months

Land Preparation-

Prepare the land by ploughing/digging followed by leveling.

Selection and Treatment of suckers-

Select healthy suckers of uniform size (average weight 500 g) and keep them in open space for one week. Later dip the suckers in Difolatan (0.2%) solution to avoid heart- rot disease.

Planting and Population: - Planting is done during April- June season in two- row beds. In each bed plant at 60 cm from row to row and at 30cm from plant to plant. Distance between rows of two adjacent beds should be 90cm. This will accommodate about 44,000 plants/ha.

Manure and Fertilizer Application

- Farm Yard Manure of 10 to 15 tonnes/ha may be applied during last ploughing stage.

Fertiliser	Dose	Season
Urea	24 g / Plant - 4 splits	August, November, May and July
DAP	8 g DAP/ Plant - Full dose at the time of planting	
MOP	8 g MOP/Plant - 4 splits	August, November, May and July