



DEEJAY CONSULTANCY SERVICES

(A Unit of Deejay Group)



COCONUT CULTIVATOR'S GUIDE

PRE PLANTING PREPARATION:

PIT MARKING: Pit marking is very important to get right alignment of palms in rows for optimum utilization of the land space and to provide sufficient sunlight. This would also help cultivation of intercrops,

One of the two types of planting described below is followed:

- a. **SQUARE METHOD:** In this method coconut seedlings are planted in squares of 25 ft gap between seedling to seedling and row to row. In this method it is easy to plan drip design and easy to have inter cultivation. About 70 seedlings can be planted in 1 acre. (175 seedlings per hectare with 7.6 mtrs x 7.6 mtrs spacing).
- b. **TRIANGLE METHOD:** With this design, seedlings are planted in the shape of a triangle, each 25 ft apart (7.6mtrs) giving them enough light and space. This means that the seedlings are 25 ft apart, but the rows are approx. 23ft. apart (7 mtrs). In this method about 5 more seedlings can be planted in 1 acre [13 more per ha.] compared to the square method. A little compromise regarding movement, pathways and the drip system may happen. Do make a choice according to your situation. Remember that the principle is that the long leaves of each palm do not overlap and cut the light for each other. Also when the leaves do not touch the leaves of the next palm, rats and squirrels find it much more difficult if at all, to move from tree to tree on a continuous damage expedition.

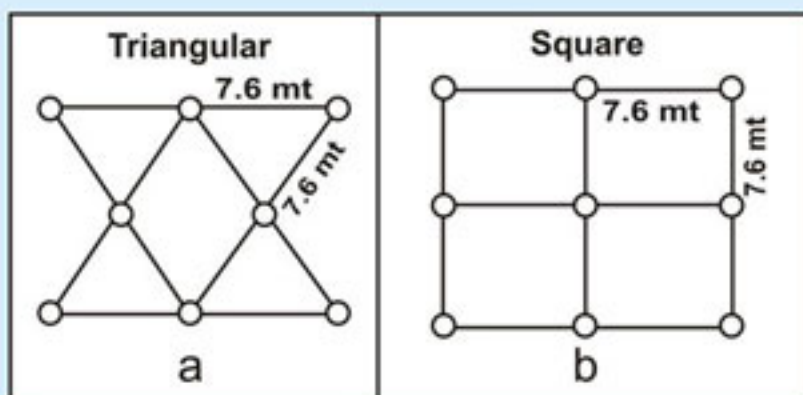


Fig. (a) Triangle Method (b) Square Method

1. **PIT SIZE:** It is ideal to have a pit size of 3' X 3' X 3' in general soils and in rocky soil the suggested pit size is 4' X 4' X 4'.

2. **PIT FILLING:**

THE NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF PIT FILLING: After pit digging it is important to refill the pit with selected organic and other material to create congenial atmosphere for plant growth. It increases initial root formation and creates good aeration to the plant. This will also facilitate good absorption of initial nutrient requirement by young seedlings which will help in seedlings growth, quality, girth formation and early flowering.

When the coconut sprouts, the soot gets its mother feed from endosperm as initial feed. After transfer from the nursery to planting area, it will adjust to the shock and grow by still feeding on endosperm. The roots start developing and the nutritious compost and fillings in the pit give the seedling a very healthy and good start.

3. **REQUIREMENT OF FILLING MATERIAL:**

GREEN MANURE: The bottom of the pit should be filled with 15 to 20 kgs of Green /dry leaves.

TOP SOIL: One foot of the top soil of the land should be put on the green manure as it contains humus and nitrogen and is called "Basic Mother Feed".

FARM YARD MANURE: Add 10 to 20 kgs of fully decomposed FYM along with small quantity of pesticide powder such as Polydoil dust 10% to destroy grubs and larvae of beetles.

TANK SILT: If available it is better to add one or two baskets of sediment of tank silt.

RED SOIL & SAND: To provide required aeration in the pits mix red soil with sand and FYM in equal quantities of 10 to 20 kgs each per pit to get best results especially in clay soils.

VERMI COMPOST: Adding two kgs of Vermi compost per pit is recommended as this is the best organic fertilizer that exists and the verms in it helps in keeping the soil loose for longer times. This should be added in the soil area around the seedling at the time of planting.

NEEM CAKE: Add ½ kg Neem cake per pit to control termite and root nematodes.

BIO-FERTILIZER: After filling the pits the top layer should be mixed with 100gms each of azospirillum, pseudomonas, pasphobacteria, trichoderma verdy per pit to multiply micro organism for generating digestible food for easy absorption by the plant.

- FIRST TIME WATERING TO SET THE FILLING MATERIAL:** After filling the above said filling material it is important to flood irrigate the pits to set the filling material and to help further decomposing of filled material to assist the seedlings growth in the initial stages.
- PLANTING THE SEEDLING:** The material in the pit should be about 6 inches below the surface of the land and the seedling should be planted at this level. However if the land is subject to flooding or worse - water logging for short periods - then the centre material in the pit should be raised up higher than the surface of the land, and the seedling is planted at a slightly higher level than the level of water logging. Bud rot could otherwise set in and destroy the seedling.

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