

Cultivation of Kusum is more beneficial in the condition of limited irrigation. Primarily its cultivation is done in Bundelkhand. Farmers of eastern plains cultivate Kusum less as compared to other oilseed crops. Adoption of following improved methods result in growth in production and there by productivity.

Preparation of Field

Sow when the field is well prepared. For good germination, sow it in the field where moisture is sufficient.

Progressive Varieties

K.65 is good variety of Kusum which ripens in 180-190 days. Oil content in it is 30-35% and average yield is 14-15 quintal per hectare. Its other variety is Kusum 305 which ripens in 160 days. Oil content in it is 36%.

Seed Rate

Use seed at the rate of 18-20 kg per hectare.

Sowing Time and Method

Suitable time of sowing is between mid October to mid November. Sow it at a distance of 45 cm rows in furrows. After 15-20 days, remove extra plants so that distance between two plants becomes 20-25 cm. Sow the seed at a depth of 3-4 cm.

Quantity of Fertilizer

Use fertilizers on the basis of recommendations of soil testing. Use of 40 kg nitrogen and 20 kg phosphorous is more beneficial. Fertilizers should be used at a depth of 3-4 cm with the help of funnel (chonga) so that the crop can get maximum benefit of fertilizers.

Weeding and Hoeing

Weed and hoe after 20-25 days of sowing. Remove unnecessary plants and maintain the distance between 2 plants 20-25 cm.

Irrigation

Often, it is cultivated in non-irrigated area. If means of irrigation is available, do 1 irrigation at the time of flowering.

Crop Protection

Some times, the standing crop is affected by Gerui disease and mhu insect which cause heavy damage to the crop. Hence it should be controlled as per following method:

- **Diagnosis of Gerui Disease**

Yellow or brown blisters appear on the leaves.

Treatment

For control of this disease, spray mancozeb 75% WP 2 kg or Zineb 75% 2.5 kg per hectare dissolved in 800-1000 liter water 3-4 times at an interval 10-14 days.

Yellow or brown blisters appear on the leaves.

Treatment

For control of this disease, spray mancozeb 75% WP 2 kg or Zineb 75% 2.5 kg per hectare dissolved in 800-1000 liter water 3-4 times at an interval 10-14 days.

• Jhulsa Disease

Symptoms and do treatment as in rye/mustard.

Symptoms and do treatment as in rye/mustard.

• Diagnosis of Mahu Insect

This insect is black in color which is found stick on flowers/leaves/soft shoots in cluster. It sucks the juice and damages it.

Treatment

Spray any one of the following insecticides for protection from these insects and repeat it at an interval of 15-20 days if required. Spray Malathion 50 EC 2 liter per hectare or monochrotophos solution 1.0 liter per hectare or methyl-o-demeton 25% EC at the 1.0 liter per hectare.

This insect is black in color which is found stick on flowers/leaves/soft shoots in cluster. It sucks the juice and damages it.

Treatment

Spray any one of the following insecticides for protection from these insects and repeat it at an interval of 15-20 days if required. Spray Malathion 50 EC 2 liter per hectare or monochrotophos solution 1.0 liter per hectare or methyl-o-demeton 25% EC at the 1.0 liter per hectare.

Harvesting and Threshing

When the crop is ripened, the leaves turn yellow. Then reap it and separate the grains by threshing.