

RIDGE GOURD *(Luffa acutangula L.)*

Ridge gourd is a cucurbitaceous summer vegetable grown throughout the year in north eastern region and is used as vegetables. It is a creeper and has a climbing or trailing habit. There is a wide variation in shape and length of fruits.

Cultivars

PKM-1, Pusa Nasdar and Satputia are the recommended varieties for this region.



Climate and Soil

Warm and humid climate is favourable for its growth and development. The optimum temperature requirement is 25-30 °C. Ridge gourd can be grown in all kinds of soil but loam, clay loam and silt soil are best suited for its cultivation. Proper drainage is highly beneficial.

Field Preparation

Same as in cucumber

Seed Rate: 3.5 to 5 kg/ha

Time of Sowing

Ridge gourd is cultivated both as summer and rainy season crop.

Summer crop: January to April.

Rainy season crop: June to July

In hills of Meghalaya the seeds are sown in April.

Spacing

1.5 to 2.5m (row to row) x 60 to 120cm (plant to plant)

Manure and Fertilizer

Well rotten FYM @ 10-15 t/ha should be applied at the time of land preparation. NPK @ 25:30:30 kg/ha should be applied before sowing. Apply 15-25 kg N /ha thirty days after sowing.

Intercultural Operation

Weeding: Shallow cultivation should be given during early stages of growth to control the weed. Herbicides such as Paraquat @800g/acre may be used to control the weeds. During weeding and hoeing, earthing up of the vine should be done.

Staking: The vine should be trained on a bower with the help of thin bamboo pole used as a stake.

Irrigation

The summer crop should be irrigated just after sowing and subsequent irrigation is given at 4-5 days interval. No irrigation is given in rainy season crop.

Plant protection

Same as Cucumber

Harvesting and Yield

The full-grown should be harvested when they are still green. Delay in harvesting . Causes the fruit to become unfit for marketing.

The average yield is 80-120 q/ha.