

On the demand of our esteemed readers we have introduced this column to disseminate information on the introduction of new plants, under-utilized plants and cultivation practices of plants suitable for wastelands and other regions.

The information shall be contributed articles by authors or compiled by editors. Contribution of articles by plant growers with cultural practices, seed source and economics are solicited.

Production Technology of Kalmegh in Wasteland

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Andrographis paniculata Wall. ex Nees (Family-Acanthaceae)
English-Green chiretta, kalmegh;
Hindi-Kalamegh, kalpanath, kirayat;
Kannad-Nelaberu; Malayalam-Nilaveppu,
Kiriyyatta; sSanskrit-Bhunimbah,
kiratatiktah; Tamil-Nilavempu; Telugu-
Nelavemu.

The plant is found throughout the India and grows wild as under shrub in tropical, moist and deciduous forests. It is an erect, branched annual herb, 0.3 m to 0.9 m in height with quadrangular branches, leaves simple, lanceolate, acute at both ends, glabrous, main nerves 4-6 pairs, flowers small, pale but blotched and spotted with brown and purple distant in lax spreading axillary and terminal racemes or panicles, calyx-lobes glandular pubescent, anthers bearded at the base; fruits linear capsules, acute at both ends; seeds numerous, yellowish brown.

Kalmegh is widely used in Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Homeopathy and

other systems of medicines. The whole plant is bitter, acrid, cooling, laxative, antipyretic, antiperiodic, anti-inflammatory, expectorant, depurative, sudorific, anthelmintic, digestive and stomachic. It is useful in hyperdipsia, burning sensation, wounds, ulcers, chronic fever, malaria and intermittent and vitiated condition of *pitta*.

Cultivation

It is a hardy plant and can be grown in any type of soil - sandy soil to clay soil. It comes up well in tropical and subtropical region, all over India. Propagation can be done by seeds and vegetative methods but in commercial cultivation seed sowing is ideal. About



400-500 g seeds are required for a hectare.

The land should be prepared well by repeated ploughing followed by planking. FYM 20 tonnes/ha or green manure gives good result in plant growth. Direct sowing has been found good for this plant. The sowing can be done in rainy season by broadcasting method as well as row sowing. The distance between plant-to-plant and row-to-row should be 15 × 15 cm.

It is cultivated as a rain fed crop but in the disturbance in rainfall, 3 - 4 irrigation required. It is herbaceous plant so the field should be free from weed. It is a hardy plant and not attacked by any pest and disease.

After 120 days of sowing and formation of fruit, the plant should be harvested. After uprooting the plant, it

should be dried in the sun for two days and then in the shade. Properly dried material should be packed in laminated gunny bags. On the bags, the date of harvesting and the date of packing should be mentioned. The material should be stored in dark, airy and moisture free covered place. The average yield of whole plant is about 2.5 tonnes/ha.

During transportation contamination by oil, acids, chemicals,

etc. should be avoided. The crude drug rates in the market are Rs.15-20 per Kg.

Seed Production

The healthy plants should be left in the field for seed production. When the capsule become mature then it should be picked and seeds are removed. The seed should be kept in open sun for complete drying and then stored in airtight container for future sowing.

Harvested Kalmegh



Buyers Addresses

Cadila Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
IRM House, Office Road
Navrangapura
Ahmedabad- 380 009

Charak Pharmaceuticals (India) Ltd.
Evergreen Industrial Estate
Shakti Mills Lane
Dr.E. Moses Road, Mahalaxmi
Mumbai - 400 011

Dabur India Ltd.
8/3, Asaf Ali Road
Darya Ganj, New Delhi - 110 002

Dhoot Papeshwar Ltd.
135, Nanubhai Desai Road
Opp. Wilson High School
Mumbai - 400 004

Hari Ram & Sons
412, Katra Maidgaran
Khari Baoli, New Delhi - 110 006

Indian Herbs
P.B.No.5, Shardanagar
Saharanpur - 247 001

Krishna Gopal Ayurved Bhawan
Mehra Building, Jaipur Road
Ajmer - 305 001

Maharishi Ayurved Products
17-18, Noida Exports Processing Zone
Noida - 201 305

Natural Remedies (P) Ltd.
Mahananda Arch
No. 242/29, 2nd Floor
9th Main, Jaya Nagar, 3rd Block
Bangalore

Sandu Brothers (P) Ltd.
D K Sandu Marg, Chembur
Mumbai - 400 071

Shree Baidyanath Ayurved Bhawan Ltd.
172, Gusainpura
Jhansi - 284 002

Shree Baidyanath Ayurved Bhawan Ltd.
1, Gupta Lane
Kolkata - 700 006

Shree Baidyanath Ayurved Bhawan Ltd.
Naini
Allahabad - 211 008

The Himalayan Drug Company
Makali, Nelamangala
Bangalore - 562 123