

Off-Seasonal Walnut Nursery



INTRODUCTION

Walnut is one of the most important and well-known nut of newly merge district. Walnut is rounded, single seeded stone fruit in nature. People of these areas are mostly dependent upon this dry fruit and this is the earning source of the inhabitants of the area. From the last decade its sowing and plantation are increasing day by day. Walnut is rear in nature because of its agro-climatic conditions. Such nut can easily be grown in District Kurram. The two most commonly species of walnuts are grown for their seeds-the Persian walnut and the black walnut.

BENEFITS

Walnut is beneficial to health. Researchers/expert says it simulates brain and is believed to be useful in the treatment of stomach, liver and kidney disease. It also helps to control the cholesterol level, strengthen walls of blood vessels and prevents diabetes, and support immune system. It also helps to improve memory and speed of recovery after serious operations. Its wood can be used for a variety of purpose like for home furniture, used as fuel, and the skin of this tree can be used for the cleaning of teeth and locally it is called dandasa which is very effective for killing of many germs. It should be promoted so that people can make it as their livelihood sources.

REQUIREMENTS FOR WALNUT NURSERY

1. At least 1marla land
2. 100 matured walnuts with husk
3. Moist and cold condition

4. Compost making and IPM training
5. 3 to 5 buckets
6. Water
7. Field tools

WALNUT SEED PREPARATION

A mature and fully brown walnut with husk is required for off-seasonal sowing. In late August the walnut fruits are ready to mature for cutting. The seed should be cut directly from the tree after maturation. And then we have to de-moisturize the seeds through sunlight. The seeds along with husk should be kept in sunlight for 2 to 3 days continuously. When the seeds are de-moisturized then we have to re-moisturize the seeds again for one day for early maturity. For moisturizing we have to put all the seeds in a bucket of water for one day before sowing.

LAND PREPARATION:

Walnut growing is extremely sensitive to soil condition during early stage of seedlings. It should be sown under most suitable frost free, fertile, well drained and rootable sites of the district. Before sowing, it needs proper compost which ensures its growth timely. Compost consists of organic matter such as leaves, grass and manure etc. In land preparation ridges should be prepared in such a way so that the distances have got to be kept within two feet. We should keep plant to plant distance up to three inches.

SOWING:

Walnut seeds can be sown manually by putting into a soil. We put the walnut with fully matured husk inside the soil up to one or one and half inches. And the ridges distance should be kept up to two feet apart respectively. During sowing we put the walnut with fully matured husk inside the soil up to 1 or 1.5 inches. This results in reducing the plant competition for nutrients.

SOWING TIME:

Generally, walnuts can be sown during the months of early summer and late winter in most parts of the district. We try to attempt off-seasonal cultivation in August to get maximum benefits.

WATERING:

Walnut in early stage of sowing does not need any watering in winter season while in summer it needs a lot of water to grow. Seeds need to be watered after one week of sowing. And then the nurseries need to be irrigated regularly.

CARING:

For the production of walnut, a continuous supply of water is needed. With continuous watering, it grows weeds in the nursery. So proper caring is required to remove such types of plants from the nursery field to eradicate the plants competition, while in severe cases we can also spray the fields with different chemicals.

PROCEDURE:

1. At maturity level we take walnut with fully brown husk.
2. These mature walnuts are kept for two to three days in sunlight for de-moisturization.
3. The dried walnut with husk will be kept in bucket of water for 1- 2 days to ensure early seedlings.
4. Put the walnut inside the soil up to 1 inch and maintain plant to plant distance of 3 inches.
5. Irrigate the field continuously after one week.
6. After 2 to 3 months they will grow up to the height of 1 inch.
7. After a year it will reach up to 5-6 inches and will be ready for plantation.

LEARNING METHODS:

The following methods will be used during the course:

- Open discussion
- Activities
- Lecture/discussion
- Field visit activity

MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS:

White board, marker, board stand, duster, charts, scotch taps.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Days	Topic	Duration
1	Introduction, Benefits, Procedure of cultivation.	180 minutes
2	Procedure to collect the walnuts.	180 minutes
3	Field Preparation, cultivation and caring methods of walnut.	180 minutes