



Marsa bhaji/ Amaranthus

(*Amranthus spp.*)

Season	It is a warm season crop adapted to the conditions of hot, humid tropics. Amaranthus can be grown round the year in different growing conditions.
Variety	CARI AMA-Green, CARI- AMA-Red, Arka Suguna, Pusa Kiran, Pusa Kirti, Pusa Lal Chauai, CO 1, CO 2, CO 3.
Soil	Well drained organically rich and fertile loamy soil.
Sowing time	It can be grown round the year in staggered planting. But avoid the heavy rains or excess dry days.
Seed rate	2 - 2.5 Kg/ha for direct sowing.
Soil preparation	The soil is prepared by ploughing 2 to 3 times and then levelling by planking. Raised beds are suggested for rainy season cultivation of amaranths. Line sowing is ideal for weeding and intercultural operations for multi-harvesting. While for single harvesting broadcasting is common sowing method.
Spacing	Broadcast method or by drilling in lines 20-30 cm apart and 5 cm plant to plant. Sowing should be done by mixing with sand or well decomposed FYM.
Irrigation	It should be given at regular intervals of 2-3 days. Sprinkling or furrow irrigation is common for amaranthus cultivation in islands.
Intercultural operations	Hand weeding is a common practice. Weeding should be done 10-15 days after sowing and remove weeds from harvested bunch of plants.
Manuring	Application of 20-25 tonnes/ha of Farm yard manure.
Fertiliser	Application of 20 kg N, 50 kg P ₂ O ₅ and 20 kg K ₂ O/ha is recommended as basal dose only. If multi-harvesting is practiced, than 15-20 kg nitrogen should be broadcasted in the plot at every time.
Disease and its control	Leaf spot is common disease but it is rare in single harvest crops. Similarly, leaf hopper and leaf minor also appear in old plants and single harvest and their infestation is also negligible in properly maintained amaranthus crop.
Harvesting	First cutting can be obtained in 3-4 weeks after sowing, and subsequent cuttings are made at weekly intervals.
Yield	75-100 quintals/ha with single harvest to 200-250 q/ha with 3-4 harvests.
Intercropping with other crops	It grows well as intercrop in any of the plantations like coconut, arecanut, fruit crops and maize, brinjal, chilli, cucurbits.