

# Coconut

Practices	
Condition of soil	Well drained deep sandy loam, alluvial and red loamy soils are ideal. Heavy clay soils and water logged areas should be avoided. Coconut has adoptability to variety of soils. . It tolerates salinity and a wide range of pH (from 5.0-8.0).
Varieties	Tall: <i>Andaman Ordinary (A.O.), Katchal Tall (K.T.), East Coast Tall (ECT).</i> <i>Dwarf (sometime referred as King): Orange (DO), Yellow (DY), and Green (DG)</i> Hybrid: D X TD or DY or DG X AO or KT or ECT or T X D or AO or KT or ECT X DO or DY or DG
Nursery	
Collection and storage of seed nuts	Collect mature nuts (above 11 months old) during the period from December to May. Lowering of bunches by means of ropes may be done when the palms are tall and ground is hard. Discard nuts, which show improper development or other undesirable features. Store seeds in shade for a minimum period of 60 days prior to sowing in nursery. For storing, arrange the seed nuts with the stalk-end up over an 8 cm layer of sand in a shed and cover with sand to prevent drying of nut water. Up to five layers of nuts can be arranged one over the other. The nuts can also be stored in plots, provided the soil is sandy and the ground is sufficiently shaded. In the case of nuts harvested in May, heap them in partial shade, till husk is well dried and then sow them in thenursery.
Spacing of nuts	Plant the seed nuts at a spacing of 30 cm (between rows) x 30 cm (between nuts) with four or five rows per bed.
<u>Spacing and requirement of seedlings</u>	
Spacing (meter)	No. of palms / ha
	Triangular                      Square
For dwarf varieties	
7.5 X 7.5	205                      177
7.5 X 9.0	148
For tall varieties	
9 X 9	142                      123
When intercrops are taken	
10 X 10	115                      100
12 X 12	80                        69
Method of planting	Half fill the pit of 90 X 90 X 90 cm. size with mixture of silt, sand and farm yard manure or compost or green leaves during March-April. Apply M.P. Dust while planting for controlling termites. Plant 12 months old good quality seedling placing it deep i.e. at 50 cm. depth from top. Make provision for drainage.
Time of sowing/planting	Planting in May-June advisable.

Manures and fertilizers	<p>Add 50 kg. farm yard manure or compost/palm per year during April – May. The fertilizer should be applied in two splits as detailed below (fertilizer g/palm)</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="375 268 1377 485"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Planting Year</th> <th colspan="3">Premonsoon ( April-May)</th> <th colspan="3">Postmonsoon (Oct-Nov.)</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="3">Planting in May-June</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1<sup>st</sup> year of planting</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>50</td> <td>30</td> <td>135</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2<sup>nd</sup> year after planting</td> <td>50</td> <td>35</td> <td>150</td> <td>110</td> <td>60</td> <td>270</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3<sup>rd</sup> year after planting</td> <td>110</td> <td>70</td> <td>300</td> <td>220</td> <td>120</td> <td>540</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4<sup>th</sup> year onwards</td> <td>170</td> <td>100</td> <td>450</td> <td>330</td> <td>150</td> <td>800</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Planting Year	Premonsoon ( April-May)			Postmonsoon (Oct-Nov.)			Planting in May-June						1 <sup>st</sup> year of planting				50	30	135	2 <sup>nd</sup> year after planting	50	35	150	110	60	270	3 <sup>rd</sup> year after planting	110	70	300	220	120	540	4 <sup>th</sup> year onwards	170	100	450	330	150	800
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Irrigation	<p>Irrigate the palms during summer months in basins around palms as shown below:</p> <p><i>Irrigation requirement of coconut</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="375 632 1247 1045"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Parameters</th> <th colspan="4">Soil texture</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Sandy</th> <th>Sandy loam</th> <th>Loam</th> <th>Silty clay</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Available soil moisture (cm/m)</td> <td>8</td> <td>12</td> <td>17</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Quantity of water / irrigation / palm in litres in a basin of 1.8 m radius</td> <td>600</td> <td>900</td> <td>1300</td> <td>1600</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Parameters	Soil texture				Sandy	Sandy loam	Loam	Silty clay	Available soil moisture (cm/m)	8	12	17	21	Quantity of water / irrigation / palm in litres in a basin of 1.8 m radius	600	900	1300	1600																						
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Intercrops and cover crops	<p>First 3 to 5 years crops like Banana, Papaya, Pineapple grows well. Cinnamon, Black Pepper, Clove, Jack fruits are other inter crops recommended in the islands</p>																																									
Plant Protection Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crown cleaning to be done periodically which other wise is a source for breeding and growth of various insects, fungus etc.</li> <li>• Rhinoceros beetle can be controlled by filling the innermost 2-3 leaf axils of the palm at 2-3 months intervals with M.P 2% dust + Sand in equal proportion. Biological control of this insect with Baculovirus is also very effective.</li> <li>• Provide G.I. Sheet band of 40 cm. wide at 2m. from the ground over the palm trunk to function as mechanical barrier against rats.</li> <li>• Poison bait of zinc phosphide applied at regular interval does help in controlling rat population.</li> </ul>																																									
Harvesting and yield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harvesting is done throughout the year.</li> <li>• Yield varies from 60 to 140 nuts per palm per year depending upon the variety.</li> <li>• Tall variety yield about 60-80 nuts, dwarf about 100-120 nuts and D X T or T X D yield from 120 to 140 nuts per palm per year.</li> </ul>																																									