

## **RADISH**

*(Raphanus sativus)*

Radish is a good source of vitamin C and minerals.

### **Suitable Varieties/Hybrids**

Japanese White, Pusa Desi, Pusa Himani, Pusa Chetki, Pusa Reshmi, Chinese Pink.



### **Soil and climate**

Light, friable loam soil containing ample humus is best for its cultivation. Heavy soil produces misshapen roots.

It is best adapted to a cool or moderate climate. In high temperature, roots become hard and pungent. A temperature range of 12-16 °C is desirable to produce good flavoured, textured and good-sized roots.



### **Soil Preparation**

Soil should be well prepared by thorough ploughing and by making friable. It should be free from clod, stone, etc.



### **Seed Rate**

8-10 kg/ha for tropical types and 10-12 kg seed of temperate types is required.

### **Time of sowing**

Radish can be grown throughout the year except during very hot season and heavy rainfall.

August-January (Plains), March-May (Hills)

### **Method of Sowing**

Radish is sown directly in the field in ridges. The seeds are drilled 1.25 cm deep at 30-45 cm between the plants and 30 - 45 cm between rows on well-levelled field. After sowing, the seeds are covered properly with the help of a rake.

### **Manures and fertilizers**

Being a short duration crop, judicious and proper use of fertilizers is essential for good yield and excellent root quality. FYM 20-25 t/ha should be applied 15-20 days before sowing. 50: 25: 25 kg N: P: K per hectare should be applied. Half amount of N and full P and K should be applied at the time of sowing; the remaining half of N should be applied 20 - 25 days after sowing as top dressing.

**Plant protection measures**

**Alternaria blight:** Lesions appear on leaves, stems, pods and seeds. The styler ends of pods become black and shrivelled. Infected seeds have very poor germination. For controlling this disease, disease free seeds treated with hot water at 50°C for 30 minutes should be used. The crop should be sprayed with Blitox 50 or Copper oxychloride (0.5%). Proper crop rotation should be adopted.

**Aphids:** These insects suck sap from leaves, inflorescence, and young pods. Severely infected plants should be removed. The crop should be sprayed with Malathion (0.01 %)'or Monocrotophos (0.05%).

**Harvesting and yield**

Radish should be always harvested when the roots are soft and tender. Indian cultivars: 200-250 q/ha, European cultivars: 80-] 00 q/ha.