



Introduction :

Apple can be grown at altitudes 1,500-2,700 m. above m.s.l. in the Himalayan range which experience 1,000-1,500 hours of chilling (the no. of hours during which temperature remains at or below 0 degree Celsius during the winter season). The temperature during the growing season is around 21-24 C for optimum growth and fruiting, apple trees need 100-125 cm. of annual rainfall, evenly distributed during the growing season. Excessive rains and fog near the fruit maturity period result in fruit drop, poor fruit quality with improper colour development and fungal spots on its surface.

Apple Planting Instructions :

Dry temperate areas are suitable for apple cultivation. The fruits produced in these areas are of high quality with high sugar content and long shelf life.

- Clonal rootstocks : MM 9, MM 106, MM 111
- Pollinator Plants : Professor Sprensor, Everest
- Pollinators : Pollinator species in between the main species is essential for proper fruit setting, at least 10% of total plantation
- Recommended Planting Time : JAN-MARCH | JULY-AUGUST
- Planting Density : 800-900 plants per acre
- Plant Spacing : Plant to plant (1mtr), Row to Row(2 mtrs).
- Trench Depth : 3ft x 1ft (long trench's)
- Planting depth : 20cm from soil
- Soil : Loamy soils, rich in organic matter with pH 5.5 to 6.5 and having proper drainage and aeration are suitable.
- Irrigation : 3-4 ltrs of water per plant, every day !
- Mulching : UV-Stabilized mulching is advised to retain the soil-moisture, if not dry-leaves can be used as mulch.
- Support Structure : GI-Structure poles/wooden or bamboo poles for plant support & GI-wire is recommended, to give support to the soft branches, in telephonic-wire pattern.
- Fruiting : Normally the productivity in this system of cultivation is reported 20,000 kg per acre. The plant starts fruiting from second year onwards as :
 - 1st Year : 0-2 (flower is advisable to pinch off)
 - 2nd Year : 2-3 kg/plant
 - 3rd Year : 5-7 kg/plant
 - 4th year : 7-10 kg/plant
 - 5th Year : 10-20 kg/plant

Special Instruction for Rainy Season plantation:

- The plants need to be completely/fully dipped in water for 48 hrs (25-30 degree) before planting.
- Roots needs to be dipped for 20 min in the solution of EMASON/EGLLOL (mercuric fungicide), 2gm/ltr for root treatment, just before planting.
- Planting depth 20 cm below surface of soil, need upto the level of grafting-point and press the soil hard around the planting.
- Give a support of 3 mt pole bamboo/any, along with the plant
- Irrigate with 2-4 ltrs of water everyday and spray the water on the plant till the leaves appear incase there is no rain.