

Brief Notes on Cultivation of Rice

<p>Cultivation Environment (Greenhouse)</p>	<p>For spring cropping, sow seeds in mid-February, transplant seedlings in mid-March and harvest in late June. For autumn cropping, sow seeds in early August, transplant seedlings in late August and harvest in mid-November.</p> <p>Select humus-rich clay loam with high water retention capacity. A soil pH value between 5.5 and 6.8 is preferred, either too acidic or too alkaline is not conducive to nutrient absorption.</p>
<p>Planting and Spacing</p>	<p>Cultivate seedlings in soil media which should be kept moist. Use plug trays to grow seedlings, with 5 to 7 seeds in each cell. About 2 to 3 weeks later, when seedlings grow to a height of 15 to 20 cm, the whole root ball can be taken out for direct transplantation.</p> <p>Group 3 to 5 seedlings into one hill. Hill spacing should be about 30 cm and 20 cm respectively. Overcrowding will adversely affect ventilation and the seedlings will be more prone to pests and diseases. Do not plant the seedlings too deeply into the soil and a depth of 2 to 3 cm is preferable.</p>
<p>Fertiliser Application and Management</p>	<p>Basal Application: Apply 500 to 1 000 kg of compost, 30 kg of both peanut cake and bone meal to each d.c. 2 to 3 weeks before transplanting seedlings in order to tie in with soil cultivation.</p> <p>Top Dressing: Apply 50 kg of “N:P:K = 4:3:3” or 25 kg of “N:P:K = 9:3:7” to each d.c. during the tillering stage (about 2 weeks after transplantation) and panicle initiation (timing depending on the variety). Drain the water before applying fertilisers and re-flood 3 to 5 days after application.</p> <p>Plowing and Puddling: A two-phased approach is preferred. In the first phase, general cultivation, aerate the basal dressing to a depth of 10 to 15 cm 2 to 3 weeks before transplanting the seedlings. Keep the soil moist to facilitate maturing of compost and germination of weed seeds. In the second phase, intensive cultivation, bury the germinated weeds and remove large roots 1 week before transplanting the seedlings. Keep the surface soil flat to facilitate irrigation and water drainage.</p> <p>Irrigation: Transplant seedlings into the field with a water depth of 3 to 5 cm until the active tillering. From the active tillering to the booting, irrigate intermittently until the water reaches a depth of 5 cm.</p>

	From the heading and anthesis stages to the milk stage, keep the water depth at 5 to 10 cm. During the maturity stage, irrigate intermittently until the water reaches a depth of 5 cm. About 1 week before harvesting, drain the water and stop irrigation.
Plant Adjustment	During the growth period, carry out continuous field observation, protect crops from pests and diseases, and conduct weeding.
Harvesting	Rice crops enter the yellow ripe stage after going through the tillering, heading, anthesis and milk stages. Start harvesting when grains become firm and ears change colour. It takes about 100 to 120 days from seed sowing to harvesting.

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