

Package of Practice

Parsley Farming



ADVANCING
NORTH EAST

An Initiative of North Eastern Council (NEC)

Implemented by North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Limited (NEDFi)

Parsley
Petroselinum crispum
Apiaceae



Parsley is a leafy vegetable. Parsley greens are used for flavouring salad, soup, and cooked vegetables. It is a rich source of iron, vitamin A and C.

Climate and Soil: Parsley is a cool season crop. Optimum temperature for better growth is 7-16°C. Parsley thrives best in loamy as well as moisture retentive soils with proper drainage. Ideal soil pH is 6.0-7.0.

Varieties: Hamburg, Plain leaved, Double curled, Moss curled, Banquet, Champion Moss Curled, Evergreen, Italian Flat Leaf, Pagoda, Plains Italian and Triple Curl.

Seed rate: 250-300g/ha.

Sowing: The crop is propagated by seeds. The seedlings are raised in nursery bed. Seeds take 18-24 days to germinate.

Sowing time: Seeds are sown in February, March and August- October in higher hilly regions and mid-hills or plains respectively.

Spacing: Two months old seedlings are become ready for transplanting at a spacing of 45-60cm X 10cm.

Manures and Fertilizers: Application of 15tonnes/ha FYM, 65kg of N, 40kg of P and 25kg of K per hectare gives better produce.

Weed Management: Weeds are managed well to raise good crop. Herbicides like TOK E-25 at 5 lit/ha or Basalin (1lit/ha) as pre-emergence is quite effective.

Water Management: Parsley crop should be irrigated immediately after transplanting. Subsequently, irrigations are given 15-20days interval depending on weather and moisture level of the soil.

Harvesting and Yield: Harvesting starts about 90days after seed sowing. Leaves are harvested throughout the growing season. Average yield is 100-125 q/ha.

Post Harvest Management: Parsley may be hydro cooled or iced, packed to maintain crispness and freshness. It may be stored at 0°C temperature, about 90% relative humidity for 1-2 months.

Plant Protection Measures:

Powdery Mildew: Powdery growth on leaves, petioles flowers stalks and bracts; leaves becoming chlorotic; severe infections can cause flowers to become distorted. Plant tolerant varieties; avoid excess fertilization; protective fungicide applications provide adequate protection; Sulphur application can be used in infection occurs early in season.

Damping Off: Soft, rotting seeds which fail to germinate; rapid death of seedling prior to emergence from soil; collapse of seedlings after they have emerged from the soil caused by water-soaked reddish lesions girdling the stem at the soil line Avoid planting parsley in poorly draining, cool, wet soil;

planting in raised beds will help with soil drainage; plant high quality seed that germinates quickly; treat seeds with fungicide prior to planting to eliminate fungal pathogens.

Cercospora Leaf Blight: Small, necrotic flecks on leaves which develop a chlorotic halo and expand into tan brown necrotic spots; lesions coalesce and cause leaves to wither, curl and die. Plant only pathogen-free seed; rotate crops; apply appropriate fungicide sprays.

Septoria leaf spot: Small, angular, gray-brown spots with defined red-brown margins on leaves; black fungal fruiting bodies may be visible on surface of lesions; leaves becoming chlorotic and necrotic. Control of disease is reliant on cultural control methods and good sanitation practices: use pathogen free seeds or treat seeds with fungicide prior to planting; rotate crops; apply appropriate protective fungicides.



Aphids: They affect the plant growth by sucking the cell sap of the leaves. Spraying of Malathion 50 EC @400ml/acre at the interval of 15 days is done to get rid of aphids.



Cost and Returns of Parsley Crop (Rs/ ha.)

Particulars	Approx. amount of Cost/Returns (Rs)
Land Preparation	10000
Seed / Nursery and planting/ sowing cost	8700
Transplanting Cost	4800
Manures and Fertilizers cost	15800
Labour cost (Intercultural operations)	15000
Plant Protection Cost	14500
Irrigation cost	5200
Equipment and farm machinery cost	3000
Rental cost of land	24000
Cost of Harvesting	8000
Cost of marketing	5000
Miscl. Expenditure	3000
Total Cost of Cultivation	117000
Yield	12.5t/ha
Average selling price of Parsley	Rs.25/kg
Total Income / Return	312500
Net Income	195500
