

LECTURE 31

OATS

Avena sativa

Oat (*Avena sativa*) can be grown successfully for fodder purpose during the *rabi* season under both irrigated and rainfed conditions. Oat fodder is quite nutritive containing, on an average, 7.6 per cent crude protein at 50% flowering stage and about 14.6 per cent at very early stage of growth. Under adequate irrigated conditions, it may give three cuttings starting from January when green fodder is scarce.

Varieties

Palampur-1

It is a medium maturing variety with plant height of about 115 cm at 50 per cent flowering which comes in about 145 days. Leaves are broad and dark green in colour. It has uniform tillering with about 15 tillers per plant. It gives, on an average, 500 quintals green fodder per hectare. The seed crop matures in about 190 days.

Kent

It is an early variety coming to flowering in about 125 days. It has moderate tillering and plant height with medium sized leaves. The seed crop matures in about 180 days. On an average, it gives 360 quintals green fodder per hectare.

Soil

Oat can be grown on all types of soils except on waterlogged ones.

Seed rate and method of sowing

Seeding should be done in rows 25 cm apart at seed rate of 100 kg per hectare. The seeds should be treated with Vitavax 2 g/kg seed to ensure freedom from covered smut disease. Sowing of oats in lines 20 cm apart and broadcasting of pea gives higher green as well as dry fodder yield under rainfed conditions.

Sowing time

The crop should be sown from mid September to mid December.

Manuring

For multiple cutting, basal dressing of 40 kg N and 40 kg P₂O₅ should be done at the time of seeding and 30 kg N should be applied as top dressing each after first and second cutting.

