

## **ORIGIN, AREA, PRODUCTION, VARIETIES, PACKAGE OF PRACTICES FOR COLACASIA AND TARO**

### ***Colocasia esculenta***

Colocasia is a crop of tropical and sub-tropical regions and requires a warm humid climate. Under rainfed conditions, it requires a fairly well distributed rainfall around 120-150 cm during the growth period. Well-drained soil is suitable for uniform development of tubers.

#### **Season**

Rainfed crop: May-June to Oct-Nov

Irrigated crop: Throughout the year

#### **Varieties**

Sree Rashmi and Sree Pallavi are two improved varieties

#### **Seeds and sowing**

Use side tubers each of 25-35 g for planting. About 37,000 side tubers weighing about 1200 kg are required to plant one hectare. Plough or dig the land to a depth of 20-25 cm and bring to a fine tilth. Make ridges 60 cm apart. Plant the side corms at a spacing of 45 cm on the ridges.

#### **Manuring**

Apply cattle manure or compost @ 12 t/ha as basal dressing, while preparing the ridges for planting. A fertilizer dose of 80:25:100 kg of N: P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>:K<sub>2</sub>O per ha is recommended. Full dose of P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and half dose of N and K<sub>2</sub>O should be applied within a week after sprouting and the remaining half dose of N and K<sub>2</sub>O one month after the first application along with weeding and earthing up.

#### **After cultivation**

Inter-cultivation is essential in colocasia. Weeding, light hoeing and earthing up are required at 30-45 days and 60-75 days after planting. The leafy parts may be smothered about one month before harvest so as to enhance tuber development.

#### **Irrigation**

Ensure sufficient moisture in the soil at the time of planting. For uniform sprouting, irrigate just after planting and one week later. Subsequent irrigation may be given at 12-15 days intervals, depending on the moisture retention capacity of the soil. The irrigation should be stopped 3-4 weeks before harvest. About 9-12 irrigations are required for the crop till harvest. In the case of rainfed crop, if there is prolonged drought, supplementary irrigation is required.

#### **Mulching**

Soon after planting, cover the ridges with suitable mulching materials for retention of moisture and to control weeds.

### **Plant protection**

Colocasia blight can be controlled by spraying ziram, zineb, mancozeb or copper oxychloride formulations at 2 g/l of water (1 kg/ha). For controlling serious infestation of aphids, apply dimethoate or monocrotophos at 0.05%. Leaf feeders can be controlled by applying Malathion or carbaryl or endosulfan.

### **Harvesting**

Colocasia becomes ready for harvest five to six months after planting. The mother corms and side tubers are separated after harvest.

### **Storage of seed material**

The side tubers to be used as planting materials are usually separated from the mother corm and stored. Keep seed tuber in sand spread over the floor to avoid rotting.



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1. \_\_\_\_\_ is the botanical name for Taro
2. Taro belongs to the family \_\_\_\_\_
3. Rich source of \_\_\_\_\_ is present in Taro
4. Taro is originated from \_\_\_\_\_
5. In Taro the mode of pollination is \_\_\_\_\_