

Bael

**AWGLE MARMELOS CORREA EX ROXB. FAMILY - RUTACEAE**

It is a deciduous tree, 6.0 to 10 m in height and 0.9 to 1.2 m in girth, with straight, sharp, axillary thorns and trifoliate aromatic leaves. The stem bark is bluish grey, 4-8 mm thick, shallowly furrowed and corky. Flowers 3 cm in diam., greyish-white, sweet scented, stalked. Fruit large about 15 cm diam., globose, ovoid and 8-15 celled.

**COMMON NAMES:** Bilva, Holy fruit tree, Bel, Shirphal.

**DISTRIBUTION :**

The tree is a native of India and is found wild throughout the Indian Peninsula, in dry hilly places ascending to 1200 m in the western Himalaya.

**PART USED:** Fruit, Root, Leaves.

**CULTIVATION:**

**SOIL AND CLIMATE**

Good sandy loam soil, sunny situation, warm humid climate are suitable for cultivation of this plant.

**NURSERY RAISING AND PLANTING**

Bael is generally propagated by seeds. Sowing is done in June or July. The development of seedlings is very slow. They require at least a year in the nursery to be fit for transplanting. They should be transplanted in rainy season, the stem is ordinarily 5-7 cm tall with 3-5 leaves, and the taproot, 20-25 cm long. It is also propagated by root cuttings and stem cuttings treating with IBA (4000 ppm) using quick dip method. Seedlings or budded plants are transplanted in the field at a spacing of 10-12 m. Budded plants start bearing fruits at the age of 4-5 years, whereas seedling trees require 7-8 years.

**THINNING AND WEEDING**

It requires attention during first year when they are well manured and weeded after the rains.

**MANURES, FERTILISERS AND PESTICIDES**

The medicinal plants have to be grown without chemical fertilizers and use of pesticides. Organic manures like, Farm Yard Manure (FYM), Vermi-Compost, Green Manure etc. may be used as per requirement of the species. To prevent diseases, bio-pesticides could be prepared (either single or mixture) from Neem (kernel, seeds & leaves), Chitrakmool, Dhatura, Cow's urine etc.

## **IRRIGATION**

The field after plantation should be irrigated periodically as and when required weekly or fortnightly.

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### **HARVESTING/POST HARVESTING OPERATION**

The fruits are deep green initially and become yellow gradually at ripening. The fruits are harvested along with it's a portion of fruiting stalk as it serves as a signal of ripening as it is easily detached only in the ripe fruits. The fruits require about a year for ripening.

### **YIELD**

The average yield is 300-400 fruits per tree. The quality of fruits is greatly associated with the weight and size of the seed-sacs. The larger and heavier the seed sacs, the greater is the amount of mucilage and poorer the quality.

### **ECONOMICS**

The rate for a kg. of fruit pulp ranges from Rs. 60-80. (YEAR-2001)

**NOTE:** MARKET FOR MEDICINAL PLANTS IS VOLATILE AND THE ECONOMICS MAY VARY.

### **INSTITUTE TO BE CONTACTED:**

**NARENDRA DEV UNIVERSITY OF  
AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY,  
KUMARGANJ, FAIZABAD (UTTAR  
PRADESH)**