

Safed Musli

**CHLOROPHYTUM BORIVILIANUM SANTAPAU FAMILY - LILIACEAE**

A herb with linear leaves appearing over ground with the advent of summer rains. Flowers white. It perenates by fleshy roots/root-tubers.

**COMMON NAMES:** Safed Musli.

**LOCATION:**

Foot Hills of Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

**PART USED:** Tuberous Root

**CULTIVATION:**

**SOIL AND CLIMATE**

Safed Musli requires well drained loamy to sandy loam soils rich in organic matter. Warm and humid climatic condition with good amount of soil moisture during the growing season favour luxuriant vegetative growth and facilitate fleshy root development.

**NURSERY RAISING AND PLANTING**

It could be propagated through seeds as well as by vegetative means (root-stock bearing buds or growing points).

By seeds: The seeds are black in colour and with angular edges. It take 12-16 days to sprout. The seeds should be sown in a very well prepared seed bed which is heavily manured by using FYM or leaf litter in the first or second week of June and adequate moisture should be continuously maintained during absence of rain in early part of the season. The seedlings can be transplanted in the field during the next Kharif season only at 30x15 cm spacing because the development of plants as well as roots by means of seeds in the first year is not vigorous enough as compared the vegetatively propagated plants.

Vegetative propagation: The initiation of sprouts of fleshy roots starts in mid May but sometimes it could be as early as the last week of April in stored material. In the forest seedlings emerge out from the ground within 4-6 days after receipt of rains. However, for the purpose of raising plants in the field either the sprouted seedlings should be collected from the forest between 10 to 30 days after receipt of rains and transplanted in the field or fleshy root bunches should be taken out from the ground or storage place in mid of May.

Even a small, 1 cm long and slightly shrunken fleshy roots or root stocks has a capacity to reproduce into new plants. These fleshy roots sprout from second week

of May to second week of June. The sprouted fleshy propagules should be planted in the field in first or second week of June, followed by irrigation. The practice of planting on top of the ridges of 15-20 cm height at a row distance of 30x15 cm is found adequate for obtaining commercial yield. It is estimated that 250-300 kg of root stocks will be required for planting one ha land. Safed Musli could be easily intercropped in between maize rows.

### **MANURE AND FERTILISER**

The use of 10-15 ton of FYM/ha provide good nutrient status to the substratum for supporting healthy plant growth. .

### **IRRIGATION**

The crop may be sown after receipt of rains. If there is no rains after sowing of fleshy root propagules and its transplanting then one irrigation be provided immediately. Later, when soil moisture has receded in the fields, irrigation may be done after 10 to 15 days interval.

### **WEEDING**

One to two weeding-cum-hoeings are needed to keep the soil porous and free of weedy growth.

### **HARVESTING/POST-HARVESTING**

The crop matures in about 90 days under cultivation. At maturity the leaves start yellowing and ultimately dry up from the collar part and fall down. The crop could thus be harvested when leaves have dried which occurs in the months of September/October. During digging of plants, fleshy root bunches should be lifted form the soil. The harvested fleshy roots are cleaned and is removed and white musali tubers are dried spread in the shade for about 4-7 days to dry-out its moisture.

### **YIELD**

About one ton of fleshy root per hectare, is collected. This, after processing and drying is reduced to 200 kg.

### **ECONOMICS**

Expenditure per hectare. Rs.9,25,000/-

Return per hectare Rs.1,62,5000/-

Net income Rs.7,00,000/- (YEAR 2001)

Note: Market for medicinal plants is volatile and the economics may vary.

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

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