

Ghritakumari



Aloe vera (L.) Burm.f. Syn. *Aloe barbadensis* Mill.

Family: Xanthorrhoeaceae

Habit: Succulent perennial herb

Origin & Distribution: Indigenous to Eastern and Southern Africa. Cultivated in India.

Therapeutic Uses:

Whole plant: Used as anthelmintic for children, stomachic, tonic in small doses but in large doses as a purgative; useful in the treatment of amenorrhoea, piles and rectal fissures.

Leaves: Fresh juice is used as antipyretic, cathartic and cooling; useful in eye, liver and spleen troubles, skin disease, burns and wounds.

Root: Used to treat colic.

Cultivated variety: *Aloe barbadensis* Mill.

Soil: It grows on a variety of soils but prefers sandy costal to loamy soils with PH up to 8.5. Avoid water logged and problematic soils.

Climate: The plant has a wide adaptability- it grows in warm, humid or dry climate with even 150-200 cm. to 35-40 cm. of yearly rainfall. In dry regions protective irrigation should be provided.

Land preparation: Land should be prepared by thorough weeding and then ploughing at least twice to fine tilt with mixing of 20-25 MT. FYM and leveled. There must be good drainage system.

Propagation: It is propagated through root suckers. Root suckers of length 15-18 cm. are planted in the field at spacing 60 cm. X 45 cm. and the land is irrigated soon after planting if there is no rain.

Manuring: Organic manure should be applied during earthening around the bases.

Irrigation: According to the moisture condition of the soil, generally 4-5 times/ year are sufficient.

Weeding: Weeding should be done as per field requirement to keep the land free from weed.

Pest and diseases: Generally the plant is not affected by any pest or diseases of serious nature. But nowadays leaf spot notices caused by *Altarnaria alturnata* and *Fusarium solani* that can be controlled by spraying fungicide (Captan or Saaf) soon after attack.

Plant parts harvested for trade: Fleshy leaves and entire plant excluding rhizome.

Harvesting: Harvesting done manually after 8 months of planting. Only the upper parts are harvested leaving the rhizome undisturbed from which new sprouts will come up again. Sometimes only fleshy leaves are harvested. In true sense commercial yield started from second year up to five years of age of crop.

Yield: Approx. yield – Fresh weight basis: 10 - 12 MT. / ha per year.

For more information please contact:

Prof. (Dr.) Asis Mazumdar
Nodal Coordinator
coordinatorrrcfc@jadavpuruniversity.in

Dr. Sanjay Bala
Regional Director
rdrcfc@jadavpuruniversity.in

Tel: +91-33-24146979, Fax: +91-33-24146886

Email: rfcncmpb@jadavpuruniversity.in, Website : <http://www.rcfceast.org>