

# Kalmegh



*Andrographis paniculata* (Burm.f.) Nees

**Family:** Acanthaceae

**Habit:** Herb

**Origin & Distribution:** It is native of tropical South-East Asia and found throughout hotter parts of India.

Kalmegh grows well as an under shrub in tropical, moist, deciduous forest. It is an annual erect herb, 0.3 to 1.0m.high.

**Therapeutic Uses:**

**Whole plant:** Used in fever, general debility, dysentery, dyspepsia; soaked in water for a night and the water is taken in empty stomach to cure scab, leprosy, and whooping cough; improves liver function.

**Leaves:** Used to relieve griping; in cases of irregular stools, loss of appetite; paste made into tablets and consumed to improve digestion and liver function.

**Roots:** Given to children to cure general debility.

**Soil:** It is a hardy plant, can grow on a variety of soil. Ideal is sandy loam soil rich in organic matter. Problematic soil and water logged condition are not suitable for its cultivation.

**Climate:** In natural conditions the crop grows abundantly in moist, shady places and sometimes in dry forests also.

**Seed propagation:** Best season is during the month June, resulted maximum growth and highest yield of herb. Seeds are either sown directly in field or in nursery bed from which raised seedlings are transplanted.

**Land preparation:** The land is to be prepared by repeated ploughing to fine tilth. FYM 25 tons/Ha. is mixed well into the soil during last ploughing and laid out into plots of suitable size with irrigation channel for good management.

**Sowing/Transplanting:** In case of direct sowing, furrows are made at a distance 30cm and 3-4 seeds are sown in spot at an interval of 15-20 cm in furrow. Seedlings are planted at a spacing 30cmX15-20cm.

**Application of Manure:** Growth promoting organic manure should be applied 30 days after sowing/ planting.

**Irrigation:** In case of long dry period the crop is irrigated initially at 3-4 days interval and later at an interval one week, depending upon the weather condition.

**Weeding:** First weeding after 20-30days of sowing/planting, thereafter one or two weeding after 60 days of sowing.

**Harvesting:** First harvest is done after about 90 to 120 days of sowing when the plants start flowering, by cutting the plants at base leaving 15-20 cm for regeneration. The field is given a top dressing of nitrogen and irrigated to facilitate regeneration. Second harvest is done after about 60 days of first harvest. Totally 2-3 harvest can be possible in a year. Sometimes the whole plat is harvested after 6 months of sowing. The cuttings/plants are dried under shade for few days before storing.

**Yield:** Avg. yield is about 2 to 2.5 tons per ha.

*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.rfcfc.org>