

Ashok

***EMBLICA OFFICINALIS* GAERTN. FAMILY - EUPHORBIACEAE**

Ashok is a small evergreen tree 6 to 9 m high. Leaves pari-pinnate, 15-20 cm long, leaflets 6-12, oblong, lanceolate; flowers orange or orange-yellow very fragrant; pods flat, leathery; seeds 4-8 ellipsoid-oblong.

**COMMON NAMES:** Ashok, Sita Ashok,

**DISTRIBUTION :**

It is found wild along streams or in the shade of evergreen forests. It occurs almost throughout India up to an altitude of 720 m in the centre and eastern Himalayas & Khasi, Garo and Lushai hills. It is also found in the Andaman Islands.

**PART USED:** Stem Bark.

**CULTIVATION:**

**SOIL AND CLIMATE**

The plant requires slightly acidic to neutral soils for good growth with medium to deep well drained fertile soils. It grows well in tropical to sub-tropical situations under irrigation.

**NURSERY RAISING AND PLANTING**

The crop can be propagated by seeds and stem grafting. The seedlings are planted in the well manured field during the rainy season.

**THINNING AND WEEDING**

Weeding and thinning of the plants may be done as and when required usually after 15-30 days for better growth.

**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**

Normally grown as rainfed crop but for better yield irrigation may be done as per requirement (weekly/fortnightly)

## **HARVESTING/POST HARVESTING OPERATION**

Bark is removed from about ten years or more old tree and then it has to be sun dried.

## **ECONOMICS**

The rate for a kg. of dried bork ranges from Rs. 120-150. (YEAR-2001)

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

## **INSTITUTE TO BE CONTACTED:**

**KERALA AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY,  
VELLANIKKARA, TRICHUR, KERALA.**