

Chirata

SWERTIA CHIRATA BUCH - HAM. FAMILY - GENTINACEAE

Chirata is an annual herb 30-80 cm. high; leaves lanceolate acute; flowers greenish-purple. It is naturally found in temperate to sub-alpine Himalayan areas from J&K, H.P., U. P. to Arunachal Pradesh on slopes between 1800-3600 m. altitude. Flower & fruiting July to September.

COMMON NAMES: Chirayata, Napalinim, Kirata & Kirataka.

LOCATION: Himachal Pradesh, Uttranchal, Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

PART USED: Whole plant

CULTIVATION:

SOIL AND CLIMATE

The plant can be grown in variety of soils with sandy loam rich in carbon and humus. It can be grown in sub-temperate regions between + 1500 to 2100m. altitude.

NURSERY RAISING AND PLANTING

Nursery beds are prepared in selected areas of suitable climatic conditions. Seeds are sown during May-June. After 3-4 months seedlings are transplanted in the field in rows at a distance of 45-60cm. The distance between two rows is also kept about 60 cm.

WEEDING AND HOEING

Periodical weeding and hoeing is required in nursery and field.

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 nursery beds and field after plantation should be irrigated periodically as and when required weekly or fortnightly. The plants are irrigated till it flowers.

HARVESTING/POST-HARVESTING

The Crop is usually ready for harvesting after 6-8 months. The plants are collected and dried in shade.

ECONOMICS

The rate for a kg. of chiraita whole plant ranges from Rs. 300-350. (YEAR-2001)

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

INSTITUTES TO BE CONTACTED:

**HIMACHAL PRADESH KRISHI VISHVA
VIDHYALAYA,
PALAMPUR (H.P.)**

**S. K. UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
SHALIMAR (J&K)**