

Vatsnabh

ACONITUM FEROX WALL. FAMILY - RANUNCULACEAE

Vatsnabh is a perennial herb with tuberous roots 50-100 cm high with an erect stem; leaves semi-circular; flower blue, in loose racemes. Roots are dark-brown externally and on tasting, it produce strong tingling sensation.

COMMON NAMES: Bachnag, Mithavis & Vatsanabhah

LOCATION: Hills of Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Jammu & Kashmir & Sikkim

PART USED: Root

CULTIVATION:

SOIL AND CLIMATE

Sandy textured loam soil, rich in moisture, humus and in organic carbon between 2000-3000 m. altitude near snow line usually on slopes is preferred. It requires temperate to sub-alpine area. The land for planting may be sloppy with raised beds in between furrows like potato cultivation.

NURSERY RAISING AND PLANTING

Seeds are sown during February-March about 3-4 cm inside the soil and 10-15 cm apart in the raised nursery beds. Five hundred to eight hundred grams seeds in one hectare are sufficient. The sprouting/germination of seeds should be protected from frost. About 5-10 cm long seedlings are suitable transplanted in the field. The pieces of root tubers (root-stocks) with growing buds can also be planted directly in the field during May-June.

MANURE

Compost/vermi-compost or organic manure is preferred.

IRRIGATION

Irrigation may be done till flowering or fruit setting is there, usually intermittently as per requirement (weekly/fortnightly)

WEEDING

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

Harvesting/Post-harvesting

The mature root tubers after completion of reproductive (Flowering/Fruiting) phase are ready for collection within three years of planting. However, it is observed that in certain maximum active ingredients are found during July-August at the time of initiation of flowering period. Thus during this period plants can be harvested to achieve high quality of active contents. The collected tubers are cut into small pieces, dried in shade and stored in cool, moisture-free, dry containers.

ECONOMICS

The rate for a kg. of roots ranges from Rs. 150-200. (YEAR-2001)

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

Institute to be contacted:

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