

Cultivation of Malabar Neem (*Melia dubia*)

A 1st of Kind Sustainable Agriculture & Environmental Voluntary Specie of India

Keywords: Malaivembu, Melia Dubia, Agroforestry, Multifarming, Seedlings production, Cultivation period, Cost effective

Country of Origin: India

Sustainable Development Goals: Innovation and Infrastructure, Life on land, No poverty, Industry specific



Melia Dubia grows on a variety of soils; however, it grows well in deep, fertile and sandy loam soils.

SUMMARY

Cultivation of Malabar Neem (Melia dubia) is most viable because it is a fast growing tree with upto 18 mts. height, can be harvested early, within a short period of 6 years with greater bio-mass.



DESCRIPTION

What is Melia Dubia

Malabar Neem (Melia dubia) is of soft wood timber with multiple uses. The tree is found in forest plantations in India and is one of the fastest growing species in irrigated and fertile soils reaching up to 18 mts. height. Also, called as a Forest Neem, it boasts of being among the fastest growing farming tree genres, which takes merely 5-7 years to set for harvest while the yield is found considerably hefty. Melia Dubia grows on a variety of soils; however, it grows well in deep, fertile and sandy loam soils.

This plant is utilized as a part of paper industry, up to 3 years of its life. But, from 5 years old onwards, Malabar Neem will be utilized as a part of the plywood business, i.e. for veneers, mostly the core veneer and sometimes for production of face veneers and henceforth its worth goes up generously. Past 10 years, it is utilized as timber, further expanding its quality. The wood is also utilized for pressing cases, stogie boxes, roof boards, building purposes,



DESCRIPTION

Inter cultivation can be done with annual crops in the first three years to fill the interspace between trees in a farm. Intercrops, like groundnut, green gram and black gram could be raised within the interspace in the first year of planting fetching additional income. Bananas can be cultivated as a crop if Melia Dubia is planted for timber purpose with good spacing of 5 to 6 m between rows of the planted trees. However, intercropping the tree with other tree species is not advisable as it can hamper the growth of the erectness of the Melia Dubia and lead to bending.

Due to shortage of labour and high labour costs, tree farming with Melia Dubie is more profitable compared to annual crops under intense systems and it is found to be a better alternative in Melia Dubia to other cultivation.





Cultivation Techniques for Malabar Neem (Melia dubia)

Rich with organic elements fertile sandy loam soil happens to be the finest class for Malabar neem cultivation. Similarly, laterite red soils are also great for the Malabar neem farming. Since the tree roots penetrate deeper soils, hence, even as the soil should have the ability to hold needed moisture, the field should be well-drained and must not be waterlogged.

Melia Dubia can grow consistently backed by satisfactory irrigation methods throughout the year depending on the need. Regions higher than 600-1800m of sea level are paramount for Melia dubia cultivation.



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