

Little Millet

Madhya Pradesh: Little millet + Sesamum/soybean/pigeon pea (2:1 row ratio)

Sothern Bihar: Little millet + pigeon pea (2:1 row ratio)

Cropping sequence

South Bihar: Little Millet- Niger

Diseases: There are no serious diseases on this crop, Grain smut (*Macalpinomyces*) a common disease of little millet.

Symptom: The affected ovary is converted into smut sorus, but does not increase in size than the normal grain

Management: The disease can be controlled by adopting resistant cultivars (DPI 2394, PLM 202, OLM 203, DPI 2386 and CO 2), cultural practices like delayed sowing and Seed treatment with Carboxin or Carbendazim @ 2 g

Pests: Shoot fly is the major pest in Little Millet.

Symptoms: The damage of this pest is observed from sowing to six weeks of old crop. As a result of its feeding the central shoot starts drying and shows the typical symptoms of dead heart in the early stage and profuse tillering in the later stage, which are also affected. Damaged tillers may produce ear heads, but with no grains (white ears)

Management: Early sowing within 7 to 10 days of the onset of monsoon. Another important practice is to increase the seed rate and destroy the 'dead heart' seedlings after removal, to maintain the optimum plant stand. Seed treatment

with Imidacloprid @ 10-12 ml/kg of seed or Thiamethoxam 70 WS @ 3g/kg of seed may be used. Apply Carbofuran (Furadan 3G) or Phorate 10G at the time of sowing as soil application in the furrows @ 20 kg/ha.

Harvesting: Harvest is done once the ear-heads are physiologically mature. The crop is ready for harvest in 65 - 75 days after sowing.

Yield: Grain 12-15 q/ha and 20-25 quintals of straw per hectare.

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Little Millet (*Panicum Sumatrense*) is a quick growing, short duration cereal which can withstand both drought and water logging. It is an important crop grown for food and feed. It was domesticated in the Eastern Ghats of India occupying a major portion of diet amongst the tribal people and spread to Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Myanmar. In India, its cultivation is mostly confined to the tribal belt of Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh. It is wonderful millet which is suitable for people of all age groups. It helps to prevent constipation & heals all the problems related to stomach. Little millet is rich in cholesterol, when consumed increases good cholesterol in the body, suitable for growing kids and strengthens the body. Its complex carbohydrate digests slowly which is very helpful for diabetic patients. The little millet contains 8.7 gram protein, 75.7 gram carbohydrate, 5.3 gram fat and 1.7 gram mineral and 9.3 mg iron in per 100 gram grain. Its high fiber helps to reduce the fat depositions in the body. Little millet has a significant role in providing nutraceutical components such as phenols, tannins and phytates along with other nutrients.

Local Names of Little Millet

Language	Local Names
Hindi	Kutki, Shavan
Bengali	Sama
Punjabi	Swank
Telugu	Samalu
Oriya	Suan
Kannada	Sama, Same
Gujarati	Gajro, Kuri
Tamil	Samai
Marathi	Sava, Halvi, Vari

State wise Varieties of Little millet

Orissa	OLM 203, OLM 208 and OLM 217
Madhya Pradesh	JK 4, JK 8 and JK 36
Andhra Pradesh	OLM 203 and JK 8
Tamilnadu	Paiyur 2, TNAU 63, CO-3, CO-4, K1, OLM 203, OLM 20
Chhattisgarh	JK 8, BL 6, BL-4, JK 36
Karnataka	OLM 203, JK 8
Gujarat	GV 2, GV 1, OLM 203, JK 8
Maharashtra	Phule Ekdashi, JK 8, OLM 203

Climate:

Little millet can withstand drought as well as water logging. Hence it is a good catch crop under rainfed condition. Its cultivation is restricted to hilly regions upto an altitude of 2000m. It cannot withstand colder temperatures below 10°C.

Soils:

Little millet can be grown on a wide range of soils including waterlogged soils. Deep, loamy, fertile soils rich in organic matter are preferred for satisfactory growth. It can withstand salinity and alkalinity to some extent.

Time of Sowing:

Kharif- first fortnight of July with the onset of monsoon

Rabi-September to October in Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh

Mid March - mid May in the states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh as irrigated catch crop.

Spacing: 25-30 cm (row to row), 8 – 10 cm (plant to plant). The seed should be planted 2-3 cm in depth.

Seed rate: 8-10 kg/ha for line sowing
12- 15 kg/ha for broadcasting

Manuring and fertilization:

Apply Compost or farmyard manure @ 5-10 tonnes/ha about a month before sowing. Generally fertilizer recommended to get a good crop are 40 kg Nitrogen, 20 kg P₂O₅ and 20 kg K₂O per ha. Soil test based fertilizers application is recommended. Apply entire quantity of P₂O₅ and half of Nitrogen at the time of sowing and remaining half of Nitrogen at first irrigation

Weeding and Intercultural Operation:

Two inter cultivations and one hand weeding in line sown crop is recommended. Intercultural operation using a tyne-harrow when crop is 30 days old is also recommended. In broadcast crop 1st weeding after 15 – 20 days after emergence of seedling and 2nd weeding 15-20 days after 1st weeding is recommended.

Irrigation: *Kharif* season crop require minimum irrigation. It is mostly grown as a rain-fed crop. However, if the dry spell prevails for longer period, then 1 - 2 irrigations to be given. Summer crop requires 2 - 5 irrigations depending upon soil type and climatic conditions.

Cropping systems

Intercropping

Orissa: Little millet +Black gram (2:1 row ratio)