

**BER**  
*Ziziphus mauritiana* Lam.

**Cultivars:** Apple, BAU, Thailand

**Soil:** It can be grown on any type of well-drained soil rich in organic matter.

**Propagation:** Budded plants

**Time of planting:** April to September

**Planting and population:**

Pits of 45 cm x 45 cm x 45 cm size should be dug, refilled after 7-10 days with addition of 5 kg of FYM or 2 kg vermicompost. Spacing of 5 m x 3 m should be adopted, for high density planting it can be reduced to 3 m x 2.5 m distance.

**Manure and Fertilizer:**

10 to 12 kg FYM along with 200 g N, 250 g P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and 100 g K<sub>2</sub>O to be applied from second year onwards. The recommended fertilizer is to be applied in March (after pruning) and October. 25 g Borax is to be applied to each plant during the application of fertilizers.

**Cultural practices:**

**Training and pruning:**

1. The sprouts appearing from the trunk below the bud union should be removed regularly.
2. The young plants should be provided support by bamboo.
3. Branches appearing on the stem up to 40-50 cm of trunk should be removed.
4. Select 4-6 side branches in all directions to have a balanced frame.
5. After harvesting of fruits, branches are to be headed back to 30 cm above the graft union to encourage new shoots.

**Weeding, irrigation and mulching:**

Weeding should be done at least three to four times a year. Hand weeding can be partially eliminated by chemical weedicides like paraquat 1.0 kg/ha. Black polythene (50 micron) can also be used for effective control of weeds, conserving soil moisture and to improve yield and quality of fruits. Watering should be done at the interval of 2 weeks as during flowering and fruiting as water stress during this period causes yield reduction.

**Plant Protection:**

- a) **Ber fruit fly:** Use methyl eugenol trap @20 number/ha when the fruits attain pea size.
- b) **Leaf eating (Chafer) beetle:** Use of light trap for collecting adult beetle, spraying of Thiamethoxam 25WG@ 26 g ai/ha
- c) **Powdery Mildew:** Dusting with sulphur @ 150-200 g/tree and subsequently 2-3

dusting at an interval of 15-20 days

- d) Alternaria leaf spot and Cercospora leaf spot:** Spraying of Chlorothalonil 75 WP @ 2 g/ltr of water as soon as the disease appears. Two to three sprays should be given at an interval of 15-20 days.

**Harvesting:**

Harvesting is done when the fruits become yellow in colour during the months of January-February. About 4-5 pickings can be done in a season.

**Yield:**

300-400 q/ha depending upon spacing, variety and cultural practices