

Cotton (*Gossypium* spp.)

Varieties:

Varieties	Plant height (cm)	No. of branches/plant	No. of balls/plant	Seed cotton yield (q/ha)	Ginning (%)
A. Long staple :					
MCU 4	94	7.7	19.0	10.50	34
MCU 1	105	5.7	31.3	12.26	33
Laxmi	120	7.7	19.0	8.12	31
Buri	102	7.4	29.9	12.23	31
J 34	130	11.6	44.3	12.21	32
B. Short staple :					
Garo	171	3.0	41.6	6.29	28
Mizo Khaki	183	3.0	38.6	6.53	23
Dambuk	147	3.0	39.6	5.68	35
Phelopi	155	3.7	25.7	3.71	24

Soil:

Cotton can be grown on a variety of soils. It requires well drained soil as it cannot tolerate water logging.

Land Preparation:

Cotton does not require fine seedbed preparation. Deep tilled coarse seedbed is required; 3-4 ploughings followed by laddering are sufficient.

Time of Sowing: July

Treatment of Seed:

Seeds are rubbed with a paste consisting of a mixture of cowdung and moist earth and then dried for sometime in shade.

Method of Sowing: Dibbling of 4-5 seeds/hole in line

Seed Rate: 20 – 25 kg/ha

Spacing: 45 cm between rows and 30 cm between plants.

Depth of Seedlings: 1.5 cm to 2.0 cm.

Manure and Fertilizers: Compost or FYM should be applied @ of 10-20 t/ha.

Nutrient	Requirement (kg/ha)	Form	Fertilizer requirement	
			kg/ha	kg/bigha
N	60	Urea	130	18
P ₂ O ₅	30	SSP	187	27
K ₂ O	30	MOP	50	7

Compost or FYM is to be incorporated with the soil during first ploughing. The entire quantity of P and K and half of N fertilizers should be applied as basal dressing during final land preparation before sowing. Remaining half of N should be applied 40 days after sowing at the flowering stage.

Interculture:

One hand weeding along with thinning is to be given at 15 days after sowing.

Picking:

The cotton is ready for first picking by the end of November. Generally 3-4 pickings are required. Picking in the morning hours is better to avoid an admixture of dried leaves and bracts. Seed cotton is dried for a few hours after picking and then stored.

Yield:

Average yield 8-12 q/ha (seed cotton) for long staple varieties and 4-6 q/ha (seed cotton) for short staple varieties.