

JOTTINGS

1. Some Aspects of Sorghum Cultivation which are Worth Remembering;
Fertilisers: In most soils where Sorghum is grown, K is not deficient and for this reason its general application is not recommended. In areas where K_2O is known to be deficient or where the soil tests show a need for K, about 40 kg K_2O/ha can be broadcast or mixed with soil prior to sowing.

If iron and zinc deficiency occur (Yellow chlorosis of leaf), the deficiencies can be corrected by spraying an aqueous solution of 0.5% zinc sulphate or 2% ferrous sulphate.

Weed control: Early control of weeds is essential for ensuring high Sorghum yields. No herbicide is completely suitable for controlling weeds on Sorghum. Therefore, only mechanical weed control measures must be employed.

Moisture stress: It is clear from research results that a drought at flowering period is very damaging. In irrigated areas or rainfed areas, where one protective irrigation is possible, the plants should not be allowed to suffer a moisture stress during the flowering period.

Disease control: (a) Treat seed with Thiram at 2 gm per kilogram. (b) Spray Ziram at flag leaf stage and repeat at 50% flowering. The dose is at 1 kg active ingredient per hectare. This is particularly necessary in seed production plots to control sugary disease.

2. *Trash Mulching for Sugarcane:* Due to intensity of drought prevailing in Tamil Nadu, the springs in irrigation wells are receding and sugarcane crops are withering in large areas. A substantial saving in irrigation water, control of weeds, and shoot borer apart from considerable additional yields were recorded as a result of experiments conducted at the sugarcane research stations, Cuddalore and Gudiyatham in Tamil Nadu on mulching of sugarcane with trash.

A thick layer of 4" to 8" of trash secured from the sugarcane crop is applied uniformly over the ridges (between the rows of planted cane) after the first hoeing at the age of 1½ months. This can even be done after life irrigation is done taking care to avoid the trash protruding far into the trenches since it affects the flow of irrigation water and crop growth. About 2 to 3 tons of trash are required to cover one acre. The trash so used as mulch will form good organic manure when incorporated at the time of earthing up.

The results of experiments conducted at the Sugarcane Research Stations, Cuddalore and Gudiatham indicated that trash mulching between cane rows is found to suppress weed growth, reduce shoot-borer incidence, preserve soil moisture actually saving 6 to 8 irrigations, ultimately resulting in a higher yield of at least 3 tons of cane per acre. This is particularly recommended for areas subjected to drought and water stress in irrigation wells.

The following economics reveal that there can be a net gain of over Rs. 320/- for an investment of about Rs. 45/- for this new operation *on one acre*.

1. *Normal method :-*

Cost of 3 weedings at Rs. 10/-	}	... Rs. 60
Cost of 2 diggings at Rs. 15/-		

2. *Trash mulching :-*

Cost of collection and application of trash mulch	... Rs. 20
Cost of 1 digging and 1 weeding.	... Rs. 25
	<hr/> Rs. 45 <hr/>

3. *Profits :-*

Saving in cultural operations Rs. 60 – 45	... Rs. 15
Saving in 8 irrigations at Rs. 7/- per irrigation per acre	... Rs. 56
Cost of additional yield of 3 tons of cane at Rs. 85/- per ton paid by the factory	... Rs. 255
	<hr/> Rs. 326 <hr/>

The only problem that the sugarcane grower has, is to collect trash during the growing period of the cane or after harvesting the cane, and stocking it in a proper place. In some area termites are a menace in trash covered crops. Application of Heptachlor which costs about Rs. 5/- or Rs. 6/- per acre to such soils will overcome this problem.

(From the Deputy Director of Agriculture (Extension)
Agricultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore-3).

Campus News

Tamil Nadu Agricultural Graduates' Association

In a memorandum submitted to the Second Pay Commission set up by the Government of Tamil Nadu, the Association has pleaded for the creation of two grades in the category of upper subordinates and has appealed for the following scales of pay for Agricultural Graduates in the Upper Subordinate Service.

Grade II Rs. 475—15—550

Grade I Rs. 580—20—680

It has also pleaded for one increment for every two years of service while fixing the salary of present incumbents in the new scale.

POSTINGS AND TRANSFERS

S. No.	Name and designation	Posted or transferred as
1.	Mr. S. Krishnamoorthy, Agronomy Assistant, Kovilpatti.	Assistant in Millets, Kovilpatti.
2.	Mr. L. S. Mani, Assistant in Millets, Kovilpatti.	Agronomy Assistant, Kovilpatti.
3.	Mr. G. Venkatachalam	Agricultural Extension Officer, I.R. 8 Crash Programme, Vellore.
4.	Mr. P. K. Subramanyan, Agricultural Extension Officer, Kandili.	Special A.D., Tiruppathur.
5.	Mr. D. Gnanasironmani, Horticultural Assistant, Papanasam.	Agricultural Extension Officer, Munchira.
6.	Mr. G. Bepin Bose, Agricultural Extension Officer, Munchira.	Horticultural Assistant, Pechiparai.
7.	Mr. G. Jayakumar,	Special A.D., Madras-2.
8.	Mr. M. Jayakumar, Coconut Dev. Asst., Kuruvikarambai.	Agricultural Extension Officer, Tiruchithambalam.
9.	Mr. V. Thandapani,	Assistant Lecturer in Botany, Agricultural College, Coimbatore.
10.	Mr. S. N. M. Ramachandra Bhoopathi,	Assistant in Physiology (Groundnut), A.C.R.I. Coimbatore.
11.	Mr. J. M. Sadiq,	Assistant in Entomology (F.R.S.), A.C.R.I. Coimbatore.
12.	Mr. V. Ramamurthi,	Coconut Development Assistant, Mudukulathur.
13.	Mr. A. Thangavelu,	Agricultural Extension Officer, Chinnamanur.
14.	Mr. N. Kaliappan,	Tobacco Development Assistant, Dindigul.
15.	Mr. S. Jainulabudeen,	Agricultural Extension Officer, Tiruchuli.
16.	Mr. V. Kanakaraj,	Oilseeds Development Assistant, Kariapatty.