

## Cultivation Practices on Litchi

(\*Shraddha Chowhan, Lavkesh Kumar Lodhi and Amrit Anand)

A.K.S University, Satna, Madhya Pradesh

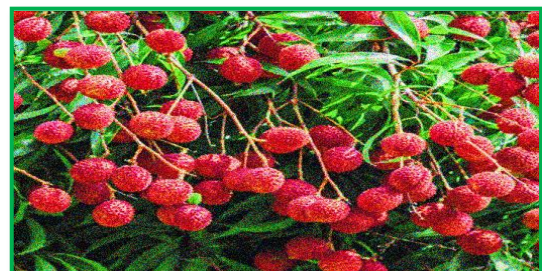
\*Corresponding Author's email: [shraddhachowhan@gmail.com](mailto:shraddhachowhan@gmail.com)

Litchi fruit, renowned for its sweet and refreshing taste, holds significant importance due to its nutritional value, cultural significance, and economic impact. Here are several key points to consider for an article on the importance of litchi fruit:

1. **Nutritional Benefits:** Litchis are rich in vitamin C, which boosts the immune system, aids in iron absorption, and promotes healthy skin. They also contain B vitamins, potassium, and copper, contributing to overall health and well-being.
2. **Antioxidant Properties:** Litchis are packed with antioxidants such as flavonoids and polyphenols, which help combat oxidative stress and reduce the risk of chronic diseases like heart disease and cancer.
3. **Cultural Significance:** Litchi fruit holds cultural significance in various regions where it is grown. In China, where it originated, litchis are associated with good fortune, symbolizing happiness and prosperity. They are often exchanged as gifts during festivals and celebrations, particularly during the Lunar New Year.
4. **Economic Impact:** Litchi cultivation plays a vital role in the economy of regions where it is grown commercially. Countries like China, India, Thailand, and Vietnam are major producers of litchis, contributing to both domestic consumption and international trade. The litchi industry provides employment opportunities for many people involved in cultivation, harvesting, processing, and distribution.
5. **Seasonal Delicacy:** Litchis are a seasonal delicacy, typically available in the summer months. Their limited availability adds to their allure, making them highly anticipated and cherished during their peak season.
6. **Medicinal Uses:** In traditional medicine systems like Ayurveda and Traditional Chinese Medicine, litchis have been used for their medicinal properties. They are believed to have cooling effects on the body and are used to treat ailments such as fevers, digestive issues, and respiratory problems.
7. **Environmental Benefits:** Litchi trees are valuable for their role in environmental conservation. They help prevent soil erosion, provide shade, and contribute to biodiversity by attracting pollinators and other beneficial insects.

### Soil and climate

The climate requirement for litchi crop is subtropical. The crop cannot tolerate frost and dry heat in summer. The temperature should be beyond 40C. May excessive rainfall can be harmful for the crop and it can affect pollination and damage flowering stage. The loamy soil is best soil for the growth of litchi crop. The pH required is range between 5.0 to 7.0.



## Planting and propagation

Pits of 90 x 90 x 90 cm in dimension are dug at the spacing of 8 – 10 m apart in square system. Incorporation of about 2 baskets of soil from the root zone of old lychee trees encourages the mycorrhiza growth. Planting is done during June to July. At the time of planting a hole the size of ball of earth is made in the centre of the pit at the marked point where the plant is fixed and the soil is pressed to remove air. Air layering is the most common method of propagation.

## Irrigation

Pre-bearing stage orchards are irrigated weekly. Fruit development stages require irrigation twice a week. Regular irrigation should be provided in bearing orchard. The drip irrigation will be best method for irrigation.

## Manure and fertilizer

The topsoil mixed with about 40 kg decomposed compost, 2 kg neem/karanj cake, 1 kg bone meal/single super phosphate and 200-300 g muriate of potash in the pits. Incorporation of about 2 baskets of soil from the root zone of old lychee trees encourages the mycorrhiza growth, P and K should be applied in litchi. Zinc sulphate @ 4 kg and hydrated lime @ 2 kg dissolved in 500 litres water.

## Plant protection measures: The insect and pest in lychee

- Lychee mites, shoot bore, Fruit stone, Bark eating caterpillar
- Spray chlorfenapyr 10 EC (3ml/l) or propargite 57 EC (3ml/l) against litchi mites.

## Disease

Rot caused by *Helmenthosporium hawaiiense*.

Rotting of fruits caused by *Aspergillus spp*.

## Treatment

The spraying of fungicides of the appearance of symptoms. The fungicides can be sprayed before harvesting. The spraying of copper oxychloride (0.25%) is best for rotting in litchi.

## Varieties

Ip litchi, Bengal lychee, Brewster litchi, sweet cliff lychees, Kaimana lychee, Mauritius Lychees

**Some Indian varieties of lychees are:** Shahi, Swarna Roopa, Kasba, Elachi, Purbi, Bombilate large red, Gulabi

## Harvesting

The harvest is done in a bunch with a leaf. The harvesting is generally done in morning when temperature is normal. The fruits are harvested in such a way that fruits can't fall on ground. The harvesting is done in May- June.

## Yield

Generally, 80-140 kg fruit/ tree from 13-15/year.