

REARING OF SILKWORMS

Q. Define moriculture.

The effortful cultivation of mulberry plants for harvesting the leaves that to be used as food for the silkworms in sericulture is referred to as moriculture.

Q. Selection of mulberry variety and establishment of mulberry garden. Q. Give examples of some important species of mulberry plants.

Morus alba, M. indica, M.nigra, M.rubra.

Q. How silk production is dependent on mulberry plant?

Production of qualitatively and quantitatively improved silk-cocoon of *B. mori* depends much on the supply of quality mulberry leaves upon which the larvae feed, the moriculture prior to silk-worm rearing is essential.

Q. Mention the suitable pattern of soil for mulberry plantation.

Almost all types of soil (e.g; loamy, sandy-loamy, clay loamy etc) with slightly acidic pH (6.5) in any climate is suitable for moriculture.

PLANTATION:

(1) Of cutting—Done in 3 ways in June-July.

a) Row system-

Furrows opened a meter apart either way. Small pits scooped at the junctions and 2/3 cuttings (each with 3 nodes and 20-28 cm long) planted in each pit (with an inbetween space of 1½”).

b) Hatchi-Pa-System-

In a 6” square plate, a set of 5 cuttings planted, 1 in each corner and the remaining one in the centre of the square. The in between distance of the sets in 1 meter.

c) Do-Thaki or Te-Thaki System-(Strip system): It is developed in West Bengal. This is very close system of cultivation where mulberry is grown in strips.

Plantation done in strips, each comprising 2/ 3 rows with an 6-8” in between distance of the rows.

d) Angular system: For better soil and moisture conservation, increased leaf production and economic water management, this type of mulberry cultivation system is developed in the slopes of Nilgiri. In this system, the cuttings are planted in the rows in such a way that they form a triangular arrangement. It allows more plants in a given place.

(2) Of seeds—

Seeds sown in December and May. Seedlings as whole plants or as stumps are then transferred in June, July and November.

Major steps of moriculture	Features
Irrigation	Done weekly in dry season. The mulberry field may be irrigated by various methods like <i>furrow method, basin method, flat bed method etc.</i> However, in all cases, appropriate drainage system must be in the field to remove the excess water. This is essential <u>to prevent rotten by water logging, to increase the microfauna population of the soil and for leaching of excess salts.</u>
Manuring	Done as superphosphate, lime, urea etc in December-January @ be fixed based on soil fertility and age of trees. Most commonly organic manures include compost, sericulture