

# GROUNDNUT

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Family - Leguminosae  
Origin - South America.

## Types and varieties:

	<u>Sub-species</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Growth pattern</u>	<u>Where grown</u>
Archis	hypogaea	Virginia	b & s *	USA
	fastigiata	Spanish	bunch form	India
		Valencia	b & s *	

Spanish types have a bunch form of vegetative growth. Valencia types have both bunch and spreading forms.

## General description of the plants:

Ground nut is a non-photoperiod sensitive plant. About 26-32 days after germination the plants start flowering. The flowers are :

- \* small,
- \* cleistogamous
- \* bright yellow,
- \* borne on the leaf axils,
- \* they open between 6.00-8.00 a.m

Anthers burst open about two hours before the flower opens, and cover stigma with pollen grains. This ensures self pollination up to about 99.5 %.

Due to self pollination genetic purity of ground nut can be maintained, even if several varieties are grown in the same field. The fertilized flower develops into a long appendage called the peg. The peg penetrates the soil and develops into the pod containing two or three seeds. About 40% of the pegs are formed 15 cm above the soil, and fail to reach the soil. They hang in the air and fail to develop into pods.

\*( b = bunch form, s = spreading )

Seed rate: 80 Kg of seed from large seeded varieties or 70 Kg of seed from medium to small seeded varieties is required to plant one hectare. This amount of seed can be obtained by shelling about 100 Kg. of pods.

Seed disinfection: Before planting, seeds should be treated with Captan or Ceresan at the rate of 2-5 gms of the chemical per 1 kg. of seed.

Fertilizer requirement: 20 Kg N, (Nitrogen)  
60 Kg.  $P_2O_5$   
40 Kg.  $K_2O$  should be applied as a basal dressing before planting. Experimental results show that fertilizer placement, 10 cm below the seeds gives good results.

Planting: When grown as a Maha crop, groundnut should be planted during the period between 2nd week of October to 1st. week of November. During Yala season groundnut must be planted between 2nd week of April and 1st week of May.

Plant the seed in rows. Spacing between rows for spreading varieties is 60 cm, and for bunchy varieties 45 cm. Distance between hills in the row should be 15 cm. Depth of seeding should be 4 - 6 cm.

Germination: If the soil is moist and friable at the time of seeding, germination will be uniform. Germination occurs 4-5 days after seeding. If germination is poor fill vacancies by planting good seed without delay.

Management of the crop: The crop must be kept weed free during the first two months. During Maha season 3-4 supplementary irrigations may be needed if rain fall is not well distributed. For seed production rogue the crop twice. First roguing is done before flowering and the second when the crop is mature.

**Harvesting:** The groundnut crop must be harvested at the proper stage. Yellowing of leaves is a unreliable indication of maturity because in some varieties the leaves continue to remain green even when pods are ready for harvest. Therefore start harvesting the crop when the pods become reticulated and the seed is separated from the shell of the pod. After harvesting the crop may be left in the field for 2-3 days for sun drying. The pods should be again sun dried for another 5-7 days, after harvesting.

**Yield:** When the crop is grown under rainfed conditions the yield is 1300-1500 lbs. per acre. Under irrigated conditions the yield increase may be upto 2500 lbs per acre. In USA where seed was inoculated before planting (and under good management) average yields of 5600-4800 kg/ha. have been obtained.



රටකපු වගා කිරීම

රටකපු වල මල් ස්වභාවය වේ 40% ක් පමණ මල් හටගත්තේ පොලො-වෙත් සෙ.මී. 15 නව උසින්ය. ඒවා කරළි බවට පත් නොවී වියලී යයි. හෙක්ටාර් 1 ක් සිටුවීමට පොතු ඉවත්කල බීජ කි.ග්‍රෑම් 70-80 පමණ අවශ්‍ය වේ. ඔක්තෝබර් මැද සිට නොවැම්බර් පලමු සතිය දක්වා බීජ සිටුවිය හැක. ජෙලි අතර සෙ.මී. 60 සහ පැල අතර සෙ.මී

15 පරතරය සහිතව සෙ.මී. 4-6 දක්වා ගැඹුරට බීජ සිටුවන්න. බීජ සිටුවා දින 4-5 අපරදි පැල වේ. හිස්තැන්වල හොඳ බීජ නොපමාව සිටුවන්න. වල් පැල මදිතය තර අවශ්‍ය පරිදි ජල සම්පාදනය කරන්න. අහස් දියෙන් යැපෙන වගාවකින් අක්කර 1 ට රාත්තල් 1300-1500 දක්වාත් වාරි ජල සැපයුම යටතේ රාත්තල් 2500 දක්වාත් අස්වැන්නක් ලැබිය හැක.