

## Package of Practice for Maize Cultivation

Maize (corn), known as makka in Hindi, is one of the most important cereal crops in India after rice and wheat. It is cultivated across various agro-climatic zones and is grown in all three seasons—Kharif, Rabi, and Summer—with Kharif being the major season, contributing over 80% of the total production. With proper agronomic practices like timely sowing, use of hybrid seeds, balanced fertilization, and effective pest and weed management, maize offers high yields and excellent returns. The crop is used for food, fodder, industrial products, and poultry feed, making it a versatile and high-demand commodity in Indian agriculture.

### Ideal Soil for Cultivation

The crop grows best in **deep, fertile soils with medium texture**. Avoid sowing in **saline or alkaline soils**, as they negatively impact growth and yield.

### Sowing Time

**Kharif Season:** Up to 15th July (before monsoon onset)

**Rabi Season:** From 15th October to 15th November

**Summer Season:** From 15th January to 15th February

### Seed Rate

Use **8–10 kg of quality seed per acre** for optimum plant population and yield.

### Sowing Method

Ridge and furrow (raised bed) sowing is more effective than flat sowing, as it ensures faster and healthier germination.

Prepare ridges in the **East–West direction**, and sow seeds **on the southern face** of the ridge at a depth of **5–6 cm**.

For flat sowing, maintain a depth of **3–4 cm**.

Keep **75 cm spacing between rows** and **20 cm between plants**.

After **15–20 days of sowing**, thin out excess plants to maintain proper spacing.

### Fertilizer & Manure Application

Apply **3–4 tons of well-rotted FYM per acre** at least **15–20 days before sowing**.

### Recommended Fertilizer Doses (per acre):

Season	Urea (kg)	DAP (kg)	MOP (kg)	Zinc Sulphate (kg)
Kharif	40	40	10	10
Rabi/Summer	120	50	145	50

Apply the full dose of **DAP, Potash (MOP), Zinc Sulphate**, and **one-third of the Urea** at sowing.

Apply the second one-third dose of Urea when plants reach knee height.

Apply the remaining one-third dose **before panicle initiation** (flag leaf stage).

### Weed Control

Type of Weed	Herbicide Name	Dose	Water Volume	Time of Application
Broadleaf Weeds	Atrazine 50% WP	400 gm	200 liters	Immediately after sowing
Broad + Narrow Leaves	Tembotrione 34.4% SC (Laudis)	115 ml	200 liters	15 days after sowing

Perform **1–2 hand weeding** as needed.

### Irrigation Schedule

Irrigate the field during **flowering and grain filling stages** for better yield. In the rainy season, ensure **proper drainage** to avoid waterlogging.

### Major Pests and Diseases

Problem	Treatment Product	Quantity	Water Volume	Application Timing
Stem Borer	Ekalux (Quinalphos) or	500 ml or 100	200 liters	15 days after sowing

<b>Problem</b>	<b>Treatment Product</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Water Volume</b>	<b>Application Timing</b>
	Cypermethrin	ml		
Leaf Blight & Spot	Mancozeb (Indofil M-45)	600 gm	200 liters	At knee-height growth stage
Stem Rot				

**Note:**

These recommendations are based on research center findings. Yield may vary due to soil, weather, pest/disease attacks, and crop management.

Farmers are responsible for their crop outcomes. Local agricultural department guidelines may also be followed.