

Guidelines for April

- Irrigation should be continued to maintain the fruit set of *Ambia* fruits. Frequency of the irrigation should be increased at 6-7 days interval due to ensuing summer season and high temperature.
- In Nagpur mandarin and sweet orange one year old tree should be given twice the amount and 3 yrs old tree given thrice the amount. 8 year old tree should be given 163 litres/day/tree while 10 yrs and above aged tree should be irrigated with 204 litres / day/tree.
- In acid lime(lemon)one year tree should be given 11 litres water/day/tree, 2 yrs tree be given 16 litres water/day/ tree, 8 yrs tree be given 65 litres/day/ tree while 10 yrs and above tree should be given 100 litres of water every day.
- During summer months mulching around tree trunk up to 5-10 cm should be done with wheat straw, paddy straw or uprooted weeds so that, evaporation of water due to high temperature can be minimized which helps in reducing fruit crop.
- Fertilizer should be applied at the rate of 108g urea or 250g ammonium sulphate and 157g l.c. single superphosphate along with 25g zinc sulphate, 25g ferrous sulphate and 25g manganese sulphate for one year old plant. For 2,3, and 4 years trees the rate should be two, three and four times of the quantity recommended for one year tree. Apply 20 to 25 kg farm yard manure to each tree in the soil. These fertilizers and FYM should be applied along the periphery of trees with care that fertilizers are applied to moist soil only.
- During April month, incidence of bark eating caterpillar is commonly seen, more menacing on old orchards. To control the pest, remove the wooden frass and then inject 5-10 ml of dichlorvos prepared by mixing 3-4 ml of DDVP 76 EL in one liter water with the help of disposable syringe and cover the larval tunnel with a cotton wool.
- Incidence of mites takes an alarming shape during this month. To combat this pest, spray of dicofol 1.8EC @ 2 ml or propargite 1 ml per litre of water may be sprayed. Repeat second spray after 15 days interval.
- For controlling citrus mealy bugs, destroy the ant's nests and spray Chlorpyrifos 20 EC @ 2 ml / litre of water or dichlorvos @ 2.5 ml / litre of water on the tree foliage and trunk.
- The dead wood on the citrus trees should be kept pruned, about 2cm below the dead portion followed by spraying with carbendazim fungicide at the rate of one g per litre of water.
- To check fruit drop during *Ambia bahar*, spray of solution containing 1.5g 2,4-D or Gibberelic acid 100g benomyl and 1kg urea dissolved in 100 liters of water is suggested.

The interval spray may be reduced to 15 days if an excessive fruit drop continues. Regular monitoring of irrigation should be done.

- For nurseries, soil preparation has to be done by spreading one part of virgin fertile soil, one part of sand and one part of FYM on concrete floor raised up to 1.5ft in height. Drench the bed completely with water and cover it up with 100 micron thick polythene sheet. The sides of the sheet should be sealed to avoid vapour loss.