

Looking after your Mango Trees

- 1. Soil testing:** If you have not tested your soil, you must get it tested. Soils in the Konkan region are known to be deficient in certain micro-nutrients like zinc, boron and magnesium. Knowing the profile of your soil will help you decide the kind of inputs that are needed for your particular tree. (*See note at the end on how to collect soil samples*)
- 2. General Maintenance** - at the end of May, after harvest, the following needs to be done for each tree:
 - a) Remove the plant parasites** (*loranthus/bendhul*) with an iron hook and apply diesel/liquid tar to prevent them from sprouting afresh/rotting



- b) Dig a ring** (as shown in the diagram) around the tree (below the edge of the canopy) and heap the soil from the trench like a berm or *mer* on the outer edge of the ring
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- 3. 3-Stage Organic Fertilisation**
 - Stage I: May-end:** Fertilise with organic inputs as below (these quantities are for fruiting trees older than 10 years age)
 - i. bonemeal 2kg/tree
 - ii. neem-cake/powder 5kg/tree
 - iii. rock-phosphate 2kg/tree
 - iv. mulch the trench with dried leaves (coconut/others)
 - b) Shovel into the ring** half the quantity of soil you have heaped on the sides
 - c) After applying these natural fertilisers** - you **need to water each tree with about 200L of water in one go** - this will help the tree in the uptake of nutrients from the fertiliser you have applied.

Stage II: July end: At the end of July you need to do a second round of fertilisation using organic fertilisers (as in steps i-iv above). Don't forget to cover with remaining soil from the berm and mulch it with leaves

Stage III: November End: add Muriate of Potash 1kg/tree.

4. No Watering After Rains

Do Not Water The Trees after rains - otherwise **THEY WILL NOT FLOWER.**

Mango trees will keep producing more and more leaves if the tree gets continuous water and as a result, there will be no flowering. A water-stress condition is necessary for flowers to come.

In Jan/Feb **AFTER** the fruits have developed (are the 2-inches in size) you can water once again - 200L/tree. Watering at this stage is good for the growth of the fruit. Now wait till the fruit is ready to harvest!

How to collect soil samples

Sampling should be done when soil is dry. If soil is wet, it can be collected, dried indoors and then when it is dry, quartering can be done to take final sample.

Select a random spot on your land. On your land pick a random spot and dig a small pit 1ft x 1ft x 1ft. Discard the top 6 inches of soil (as this is topsoil with high content of nutrients and sampling this will show improper results) and collect the remaining. If you have 1 acre of land, collect 8-10 such samples from randomly chosen spots spread out on your land to ensure different areas are covered (In a smaller plot of 1000 sq. mts 3-4 such samples are sufficient).

After you have collected samples from the 8-10 randomly chosen spots mix the soil together well. Pat the soil down to form a bed and then cut it into four quarter as below (Fig. 1). Eliminate quarters named A and B. Retain quarters numbered 1 and 2. Mix 1 and 2 together and make it into another bed. Quarter this second bed again as in Fig. 1. This time eliminate quarters 1 and 2 and retain quarters A and B. Repeat this process for a third time, this time retaining quarters 1 and 2 and eliminating quarters A and B.

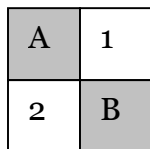


Fig. 1

Finally mix the remaining soil one last time. Take about 250 gms from this, put it into a bag with the following information written on a sheet of paper.

1. Name of farmer and name of Farm
2. Survey No.
3. Type of land (*khazan, morod, hilly*)
4. Date of soil sample
5. What crops are grown on this land

6. What is the yield of these crops
7. Any special nutrients/chemicals you want the soil tested for – in general the Soil Testing Lab will only check for N, P & K. You need to specifically mention on this sheet of paper that you want micro-nutrients tested otherwise it will not happen.

Once you have your soil sample, this can be given either directly at the Soil Testing Laboratory at Ela Farms, Old Goa or to your Zonal Agriculture Office, which will then forward it to the Soil Testing Lab.

Tiswadi: Mr. Hoble is the ZAO and he can be contacted at 0832-228 5329. Other officers that you can get in touch with are Ms. Nilima, Mr. Devendra Joshi & Yogesh.

Soil testing is FREE OF COST – a farmer does not have to pay anything to get her soil tested.

In general you should get your results within 8 days. You can either ask the Soil Testing Lab to post it to your address, or you can personally pick it up from there.

Incase you have not received your soil test results, you can speak to the Additional Director of Farmers Training (Mr. Jamble) at 0832-228 5325