

# Rape Seed, Mustard

## Land Preparation

A clean and well pulverized seed-bed of good tilth is needed for better germination. The land should be well prepared first by ploughing deep with soil turning plough, followed by two cross harrowings. Each ploughing should be followed by planking so that the soil is well pulverized and leveled.

## Seeds and Sowing, Transplanting

Usually it is recommended that the seed rate of 2 to 2.5 kg is sufficient for one acre area when grown as pure crop and 1.5 to 2 kg seed per acre for a mixed crop. Sowing is done either behind the plough or through seed drill. The spacing between plants is 10 to 15 cm and the spacing between rows varies from 30 cm to 45 cm.

## Water Management

Generally, Rape Seed and Mustard are raised on the conserved moisture from monsoon rains. Adequate land preparation through ploughings and leveling, application of organic manures and use of mulches may facilitate conservation of moisture resulting in high yield. These crops respond well to irrigation. Two irrigations at pre-bloom and pod filling stages are considered critical irrigation.

## Weeding

Field should be kept weed free for first 45-60 days. One hand weeding is given at 20-25 days and second at 40-45 days after sowing. Normally, one weeding in rainfed areas and two weeding in irrigated areas are adequate.

## Harvesting

The pods become yellowish brown. Seed sound is produced from the pods, when shaken. Harvesting can be done with serrated sickles leaving about 15 cm high stubbles in the field.

## Post Harvest Management

The harvested crop is dried and threshed by trampling animals or by running a tractor over dried plants spread on the threshing floor. For safe storage moisture content in the seeds should be 8%. Before storage, winnowing is done with natural air current by slowly dropping produce from a basket or by power operated cleaner. The seeds, after drying in sun, are stored in gunny bags or bins.