



Calendar of Operations

NUTMEG



ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research
Kozhikode - 673012, Kerala, India



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Calender of operations for Nutmeg

January	Nursery <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Vegetative propagation through epicotyl grafting method can be continued. Irrigation should be continued in all the nursery plants. Field <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Irrigation should be continued
February	Nursery <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ A mixture of garden soil and sand 3:1 proportion may be prepared❖ The black scale may infests tender stems and leaves. It can be controlled by spraying with quinalphos 0.025 %.❖ White scale, clustered together on the lower surface of leaves, could be managed by spraying dimethoate 0.05% or quinalphos 0.025 %.❖ Irrigation may be continued. Field <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Mulching of plant basins with dried leaves or any other mulching materials may be done.❖ Irrigation should be provided.
March	Nursery <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Shield scale, can be managed by spraying with quinalphos 0.025 % or dimethoate 0.05 %.❖ Irrigation may be continued.

	<p>Field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ To protect the young plants from direct sunlight, shade should be provided. ❖ Remove all sprouts grown below the graft union with a sharp knife. ❖ Irrigation may be provided.
April	<p>Field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Remove the weeds from basins and apply mulches. ❖ Irrigation may be continued. ❖ Harvest split open fruits if any
May	<p>Field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Adopt soil conservation measures like contour bunding, planting of grasses in the bunds and take trenches at appropriate places to save rain water. ❖ Planting of Banana as shade crop may be done. ❖ Pits of 90 x 90 x 90 cm are made at a spacing of 8 x 8 m for planting the seedlings/budded plants. ❖ Pits of 50 x 50 x 50 cm at a spacing 4.5 x 4.5 meter for planting grafts. ❖ Clean the irrigation channels. ❖ Harvest split open fruits
June	<p>Nursery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Fully ripe tree-burst fruits are selected for raising seedlings. The fleshy rind and mace are removed before sowing. The seed beds of 100-120 cm width, 15 cm height and of convenient length may be prepared in cool and shady places. A mixture of garden soil and

sand in the ratio of 3:1 may be used. Over this sand is spread to a thickness of 2-3 cm and seeds should be dibbled at 2 cm below the surface at a spacing of 12 cm on either side.

- ❖ A light irrigation is done soon after sowing.
- ❖ When the seedling produces elongated two opposite leaves, the seedlings are to be transferred from beds to poly bags.

Field

- ❖ Pits are filled with top soil and compost and well decomposed cattle manure and seedlings are planted in it.
- ❖ Replanting may be done
- ❖ The peak production period, when fruits are fully ripe, the nuts split open. These are either plucked from the tree or allowed to drop. The mace is detached, dried under sun on mats for 3-5 days or oven dried. The nuts are dried till they rattle in their shell. They are stored in warm dry place prior to shelling.
- ❖ Apply 10 kg FYM or compost to young plants in the first year and 15-20 kg in the second year onwards and 50 kg for 15 year old plants in the basins after removing weeds.
- ❖ Apply Urea: Rock phosphate: Muriate of potash @ 40:100:80 g/plant during the first year in two equal split doses. This may be doubled in the next year. Gradually increase ie Urea:Rock phosphate:Muriate of potash dose @

	<p>1100:1400:1670 g/plant/year to obtain full dose from 15th year onwards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Give adequate drainage for excess water and may convey it to a field pond to use during summer. ❖ If symptoms of leaf spot and shot hole and thread blight appear, give Bordeaux mixture (1 %) spray three times at monthly interval. ❖ Clean the field and remove all infected branches and burn them immediately to avoid spread of diseases. ❖ Prune the shade trees to adjust optimum shade to young nutmeg plants.
July	<p>Nursery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Fill the polybags 25 x10 cm with potting mixture <p>Field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The field should not be submerged with water. ❖ Avoid pruning of branches. ❖ Apply 50 g each of <i>Azospirillum</i> and <i>Phosphobacterium</i> in the basins. ❖ Spray Bordeaux mixture (1%) to manage Fruit rot incidence. ❖ Harvesting and drying continued.
August	<p>Nursery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Epicotyl grafting and planting in polythene bag. <p>Field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Weeds should be removed from the basins.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Harvesting continued.
September	<p>Nursery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Epicotyl grafting and planting in polythene bag. <p>Field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The second split dose of fertilizer can be applied. ❖ Provide mulches in the basins after applying fertilizers. ❖ Harvesting continued.
October	<p>Nursery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Epicotyl grafting and planting in polythene bag. <p>Field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Provide irrigation if required ❖ Harvesting continued
November	<p>Nursery</p> <p>Epicotyl grafting and planting in polythene bag.</p> <p>Field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Keep field weed free ❖ Provide irrigation if required
December	<p>Nursery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Epicotyl grafting and planting in polythene bag. <p>Field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Keep field weed free ❖ Provide irrigation if required