

KEY TO OPERATIONS ON A COCONUT LAND

Planting and application of fertilizer should be done during wet weather.

In localities where insufficient rains occur during the South/West monsoon, planting is best done during the North/East monsoon.

Construction of contour bunds and drains is preferably done with the onset of the monsoon when the soil is moist and opening of drains for draining of water logged lands is done during dry weather.

Coconut plantations should regularly be inspected for pests and diseases and in the case of young palms, inspections for Black beetle and Red Weevil infestations should be carried out at least once a week and control measures adopted.

January:

About this time the North/East monsoon would be over.
Desilt and repair contour drains and bunds.
In Termite infested areas treat soil round seedlings with a suitable chemical against Termite damage.
Apply to the Commissioner of Coconut Rehabilitation for a permit to obtain your annual requirements of fertilizer at subsidized rates.

February } March }

This is generally the beginning of the dry season.
Harrow land to keep down weeds.
Weed round seedlings.
Water seedlings when necessary.
In low lying water logged areas, cut new drains to drain out excess water.
Apply to the Planting Officer, Coconut Research Institute for your requirements of coconut seedlings for planting during the North/East monsoon.

April:

About this time the South/West monsoon commences.
Line out for new planting or underplanting.
Uproot dead or uneconomic palms and in underplantations thin out old stand.
Prepare planting holes.
Repair fences.
Plough land where necessary. This should be done against the slope.
In sloping lands construct soil conservation drains and bunds.

May/June: Obtain your fertilizer.
Plant seedlings.
Demolish Termite mounds.
Manure your plantation.
Husk burying helps to conserve moisture. Prepare husk pits or trenches and bury husks.

July: About this time the South/West monsoon would be over.
Desilt and repair contour drains and bunds.
In Termite infested areas treat soil round seedlings with a suitable chemical against Termite damage.

August: } This is generally the beginning of the dry season.
September: } Harrow land to keep down weeds.
Weed round seedlings.
Water seedlings when necessary.
In low lying water logged areas cut drains where necessary to drain out excess water.
Apply to the Planting Officer, Coconut Research Institute, for your requirements of coconut seedlings, for planting during May/June of the following year.

October: About this time the North/East monsoon commences.
Line out for new planting or underplanting.
Uproot dead or uneconomic palms and in underplantations thin-out old palms.
Prepare planting holes.
Repair fences.
Plough the land where necessary. This should be done against the slope.
In slopy lands construct soil conservation drains and bunds.

November } Obtain your fertilizer.
December } Plant seedlings.
Demolish Termite mounds.
Manure your plantation.
Husk burying helps to conserve moisture. Prepare husk pits or trenches and bury husk.

* ADVISORY LEAFLETS ON PLANTING, MANURING, CULTIVATION PRACTICES, CONTROL OF PESTS AND DISEASES ETC., ARE AVAILABLE FREE OF COST. OBTAIN THESE FROM THE COCONUT RESEARCH INSTITUTE, LUNUWILA.

* THE COCONUT RESEARCH INSTITUTE OPERATES A FREE ADVISORY SERVICE. CONSULT THE ADVISORY FIELD OFFICER OF YOUR AREA OR CONTACT THE ADVISORY DIVISION OF THIS INSTITUTE FOR ANY ADVICE PERTAINING TO THE CULTIVATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF COCONUT LANDS.