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RIDGE GOURD

Ridge gourd or patola, botanically known as *Luffa acutangula*, is commonly cultivated in the country for its edible fruits. Nutrient analysis shows that it is a good source of phosphorus, calcium, and iron. The other gourd, which is *Luffa cylindrica* or *patolang kastila*, has a smooth skin and it is used for sponge production.



ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

Patola is an easy plant to grow. It can be planted during the wet and dry seasons of the year with high temperature and adequate moisture during the dry season. To obtain high yield, it should be grown in a well-drained soil, clay loam to sandy loam soils, although it can be planted in any soil type.

SYSTEM OF PLANTING

Soak the seeds in water overnight before planting. Plant 2 seeds per hill at a space of 2.5 meter x 2.5 meter in ridges during wet season and in furrows during the dry season. Remove weak seedlings 7 days after emergence (DAE).

WEEDING AND CULTIVATION

Weed the area 14 days after emergence only. Cut the weeds close to the ground every 14 days or as need arises.

FERTILIZER APPLICATION

Type of Fertilizer	Rate of Application	Time of Application	Method of Application
14-14-14 (Complete)	2 bags	During Planting	Basal
46-0-0 or Urea + 14-14-14 (1:1)	1 bag +1 bag	28 days after harvest	Side dress
Urea +14-14-14 (1:1)	1 bag +1 bag	56 days after emergence, repeat application every 14 days or 2 weeks	Side dress

IRRIGATION

Irrigate the field after planting, and repeat irrigation once a week throughout the growing season. During the wet season, irrigate when needed.

INSECT PESTS AND CONTROL

Pest	Control
Yellow beetle	Fipronil
Leaf folder	Methomyl
Aphids	Lambdacyhalothrin

HARVESTING

Five days after fruit setting, the fruit is ready to harvest. Use sharp knife and cut 15 cm from the peduncle.

For more information, write, visit, or call:

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