

Teosinte

Common name: Makchari

Botanical name-: *Euchlaena mexicana*

Teosinte is an excellent multicut fodder and grows well in warm regions with high humidity and rainfall. The crop resembles maize but distinguishable by its profuse tillering. It is well adapted to humid tropics and subtropics. It produces tillers profusely and has dark green narrow leaves which remain green for a longer period. Teosinte can be fed as green, dry or as conserved fodder in the form of silage or hay. The crop is suitable to be grown in acidic soil and in areas where water stagnates.



Soil and its preparation

Well-drained sandy loam to loam soils with a pH range of 5.5 to 7.0 are ideally suited for its growth. The field should be thoroughly prepared for weed free sowing. One ploughing with mould board plough followed by two (crosswise) harrowing and planking are sufficient to get a good seed bed.

Varieties

Varieties	Areas of cultivation	Green fodder (t/ ha)
Improved Teosinte	All India	40-50
TL-1 & TL -16	Punjab	35-45

Sowing time

For summer sowing March to mid April is the best period, while monsoon season crop should be sown between June- July after onset of monsoon.

Seed rate and sowing method

Sowing should be done by drill through kera/pora method at distance of 25-30 cm row to row using a seed rate of 35-45 kg/ha followed by heavy planking. The seed should be treated with Agrosan GN or Thiram @ 3.0 gm/kg seed.

Cropping system

Promising crop rotations are Teosinte + Cowpea- Berseem + Mustard- Sorghum + Cowpea and Teosinte + Cowpea- Berseem + Mustard- Maize + Cowpea.

Nutrient management

Basal application of 60:30 kg N: P₂O₅/ha should be given at sowing time followed by top dressing with 20-30 kg N/ha one month after sowing time coinciding with rainfall.

Water management

In case of long dry spell, rainy season crop may also need 1-2 irrigations and in summer sown crop 7-8 irrigations are required.

Weed management

At 3-4 weeks crop stage hoeing with weeder cum mulcher controls the weeds effectively. Pre-emergence spray of Atrazine @ 0.75 kg a.i./ha in 600 litres of water ensures effective control of weeds.

Disease and insect-pest management

As such teosinte is not having serious insect-pest or disease problem.

Harvesting management

For fodder purpose, the first cut should be taken 60-70 days after sowing and subsequently 40-45 days after previous harvest.