Weeding:

Passionfruit orchards should be kept free of weeds to

- Eliminate host range of disease e.g. woodiness and cucumber mosaic viruses.
- Eliminate alternative hosts for nematodes and also nutrient competition with weeds.

Irrigation:

Rainfall of over 1200mm well distributed in the year is ideal but supplemental irrigation is recommended if rainfall is low.

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Introduction

A well established orchard from the initial stages ensures a strong crop stand that can withstand most environmental stresses.

Soil

The soil should be examined for type, texture, depth, chemical analysis, nutrient levels and nematode levels. Light to heavy sandy loams of medium texture with good drainage are most suitable. The pH range should be 5.5 – 6.5.

Land preparation

This should be done two to three months before planting and hard pan within 80cm zone should be broken.

Planting:

Holes measuring 45cm (1.5 feet) wide and 45 cm deep spaced at 1.8m intra row (between plants) and 2.0m inter row (between rows).

Manure:

Passion fruit responds well to manure. Apply at least 10kgs of well rotted organic matter and mix well with the soil.

Phosphates:

125 grams of Triple super phosphate (TSP) or Diammonium phosphate (DAP) should be applied per hole. (The type to use is determined by soil pH)

Nitrogen:

Calcium Ammonium Nitrate (CAN) is applied two weeks after planting at the rate of 125 grams per plant. This can be applied in splits.

Pruning

Minimal selective pruning encourages higher yields.

The pruning

• Encourages new growth and eases pest and disease management.

• Allows removal of weak and dead parts of the vine.

Supporting Structure

Passion fruit is a climber and needs support.

• Holes are dug to a depth of 50 cm and spaced 6metres apart along the passion seedlings rows.

• Poles should be at least 2.7m long are used.