

Harvesting

Ammi takes three months to the first harvest.

- Harvest when at least a third of the flowers on the umbel have started to open.
- Cut using a sharp knife.
- Remove lower leaves of the stems and place in a plastic water bucket containing a preservative solution e.g. Florissant.
- The flowers should be kept under shade to avoid heat build up.

Yield and Gross Margins

- Yield is 120-180 stems per square metre and 280,000 to 320,000 stems per acre.
- Gross margin/100m² KES 7,100.28.
- Gross margin/ha KES 712,800.00.



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Growing Ammi

Cut Flower



Introduction

The Ammi cut flower is yellowish-white in colour. It has a slight scent and is seed propagated. It is a short season crop adaptable to a wide range of growing conditions and does not require the use of expensive inputs.

Varieties

The main species grown commercially in Kenya are:

- *Ammi majus*: the flowers have a lacy white head, about 15-cm in diameter.
- *Ammi visinaga*: this variety is shorter with a greenish white flower.

Growing requirements

- Ammi adapts well to a wide range of soils rich in organic matter and able to retain sufficient moisture.

Seed bed preparation

- Plough deep and harrow to a fine tilth.
- Incorporate well rotten manure into the soil at a rate of 10kg/ m².

- Make beds of 1metre wide and convenient length with a pathway of 50cm.
- Make shallow furrows on the bed at a spacing of 15cm between the rows.

Planting

- Sprinkle the bed with water one day before planting and ensure soil is moist at planting time.
- Sow seeds directly into the field by drilling on the furrows at a rate of 30gms/100m².
- Mulch the beds immediately after planting.
- On germination, thin seedlings to leave 30 plants per square meter.

Watering

- For good vegetative growth, apply overhead irrigation up-to flowering stage and drip (or other surface) irrigation thereafter.

Weeding

Hand weeding should be done as soon as weeds appear to maintain a clean field.

Topdressing

- Apply Nitrogen at a rate of 50gm per m² NPK 17:17:17 one month after planting.
- Excessive nitrogen fertilization promotes vegetative growth resulting in weak stems, poor quality cut flowers and low yields.
- Apply foliar sprays of potassium nitrate fertilizer every two weeks starting two months after planting to improve the quality of flowers.

Support:

- Ammi stems are weak and are likely to bend before maturity and therefore require support
- Material used to support include net or wire and bamboo and should be installed immediately after planting.
- Stretch the first set of supporting wires in between the rows along the bed length 30cm above the ground level.
- Bamboo sticks or other support materials should be placed on wires across the bed between the plants.
- Alternate wires above and below the bamboo sticks.