



## CHAPTER-8

### USEFUL TIPS FOR PUBLIC

#### 1. Plantation Tips

- By Seed:
  - As a general rule, the seed should be sown shortly before the time when it germinates so that it is exposed to the risk of being eaten away by birds & rodents for minimum length of time.
  - As a general rule the seed should be sown so deep as to have a covering not more than its minimum Diameter. Minute seeds require special care. They should be slightly covered with fine sand.
- By Planting Saplings:
  - As far as the possible distance between two seedlings should be atleast 4 meter. Care should also be taken to ensure that the seedlings planted are away from the building so as not to disrupt the sunlight falling on the building. The minimum distance of the plant form any building should be kept at about 8 to 10 meter and from boundary wall, it should be about 2.5 to 3 meter.
  - Place the seedling as upright as possible.
  - Remove any organic matter, like leaves or twigs, from the hole.
  - Don't plant seedlings near water holes, stumps, or rocks.
  - For bare root seedlings:
    - Dig a deep enough pit to accommodate the roots, spread out well and oriented straight up and down (not all bunched up).
    - The swelling that marks the transition between stem and roots (root collar) should be at ground level.
    - For potted or burlap wrapped seedlings:
      - Be sure to remove all packaging material from around the roots even if it appears to be biodegradable.
      - Ensure the seedling is planted at the same depth as it was in the pot.
    - A shallow 1 to 2 cm dish shaped impression can be left around the planted seedling to contain mulch and provide water catchment.
    - Never burry the branches & do not trim roots. Seedlings need every single tiny root. Pack the soil well, but don't over pack it. Press gently but firmly to prevent shocking the roots. Air pockets can kill roots.
  - Never leave roots exposed to the air, as they can dry out and die within minutes.

#### 2. Home Gardening Tips

- Beware of Leaf-eating caterpillar. It is chaffer beetle that attacks in summer and leaves back leaf skeleton eating all the green. Spray Sevin @ 2.5 gm to a litre of water. Spray in the evening when the insect is active.
- Never use axe or gandasa to prune trees. Irregular cuts invite invasion of tree

*"Go green and eliminate the global warming"*

borers that weaken it from within leading to branch snapping. Use only pruning saw or secateurs for pruning.

- Always apply disinfectant at the fresh cut ends of plants. A little water in Blitox powder makes good slurry for this purpose.
- Remove unwanted growth emerging from below the graft union in plants.
- Ensure proper drainage especially after rain. Standing water could kill a 20-year old loquat in a day. Papaya is also too sensitive.
- Standing water in pot indicates it needs repotting. Never try to mend the fault by disturbing the potholes. It will never work.
- To check fruit splitting in litchi give plenty of water, at least twice heavy watering in a week and in case of lemon keep the frequency to an interval of three days. The splitting takes place due to irregular watering.
- The basin below a tree should be as wide as the tree spread. Then only you can expect results.
- Do not plant peach, plum, pear, grapes, mulberry, etc. in summer or rainy season. Such deciduous plants are planted only once in a year in winter when these are dormant.
- In roses, every bud below a flowering bud is a potential flowering bud. Unless you remove the fading or faded flowers you will not get more flowers. The

energy of plant is diverted towards seed formation.

- For planting make a pit of three feet diameter with similar depth. Mix with upper soil an equal amount of sand and well rotten farmyard manure and refill the pit compacting the soil at the same time.
- Tomato fruit gets spoiled when it comes in contact with water and so does the plant. Grow tomato at the edge of channels and let the vine spread on dry between two channels. Give water and fertilizer only in the channel. You will prolong the life of plant that will give more of good quality fruit.
- Keep a watch for insects/diseases on the trees outside your home gardens. You will save your own trees besides helping the administration to keep the city green. Inform about any of such maladies to the concerned department or the administration or the corporation.
- Here is a word of caution for the residents of Chandigarh. Those who scrap the bark of trees like Jamun and Arjun from the roadside for eating are not only alarming themselves by consuming poison but also killing these trees with no consideration for generation to come. Such plants planting by the roadside are totally exposed to pollutants and have tons of deposits of lead etc. so what you consume is nothing but deadly poison.

*"If you have fear of God, Save the environment"*