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Moringa Farming *A–Z*

The complete farmer's guide — sowing, growth, fertilizer, pruning and full maintenance.

- ✓ Choosing the right variety
- ✓ Land preparation & sowing, step by step
- ✓ Watering, fertilizer & growth stages
- ✓ Pruning & cutting for more pods
- ✓ Pest control the safe way
- ✓ Harvest + year-round maintenance calendar

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1. Why Grow Moringa?

Moringa (drumstick / nuggekai / sahjan) is one of the fastest-growing farm trees in India. It is drought-tolerant, needs little care once established, and gives **multiple incomes** — tender pods for vegetable market, leaves for powder and cattle feed, and seeds for oil and replanting. A well-maintained plantation starts giving returns within the first year itself.

2. Choose the Right Variety

Variety	Type	Best for
Bhagya KDM-1	Perennial	Long-term plantation, heavy pod yield year after year
ODC-3	Annual	Quick first-year pods, high-density planting
PKM-1	Perennial	Trusted all-rounder, long fleshy pods, good market demand

> **Tip:** Not sure which to pick? Grow a small trial patch of each variety first, then expand the one that performs best on *your* soil.

3. Climate & Soil

- **Climate:** Warm and dry. Grows best at 25–35°C. Tolerates heat and drought well.
- **Soil:** Well-drained sandy loam is ideal. pH between 6 and 7.5.
- **Strictly avoid:** Waterlogged fields and heavy black cotton soil with poor drainage — roots rot quickly in standing water.

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4. Land Preparation

1. Plough the field 2–3 times and level it. Remove weeds and stubbles.
2. Mark pits at **3 m × 3 m** spacing for perennial plantation (about 450 pits per acre).
3. Dig pits of **45 cm × 45 cm × 45 cm**.
4. Fill each pit with topsoil mixed with **10 kg farmyard manure (FYM)** and **100 g neem cake**. Leave the filled pits open for a few days before sowing.

> **Tip:** For annual ODC-3 grown densely for one season, closer spacing (1.5 m × 1 m) can be used — ask us on WhatsApp for a planting plan.

5. Sowing — Step by Step

1. **Best time:** Onset of monsoon (June–July), or February–March if you have irrigation.
2. Sow **2–3 seeds per pit**, about **2 cm deep**. Cover lightly with soil — never sow deep.
3. Water gently immediately after sowing so the soil settles around the seeds.
4. **Seed rate:** About **2.5 kg of seed per acre** at 3×3 m spacing.

Nursery option (optional)

Raise seedlings in polybags filled with soil + FYM + sand (2:1:1). Transplant at 4–6 weeks when seedlings are about 30 cm tall. Water the pit before and after transplanting.

6. Germination & Early Care

- Seedlings usually emerge in **7–14 days**.
- Keep the soil **moist, not flooded** — daily light watering in the first month.
- Protect young seedlings from heavy rain washout and grazing animals.
- Remove weeds around the pits regularly — young moringa hates weed competition.

7. Thinning — Keep Only the Strongest

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When seedlings are 15–20 cm tall, keep **only the single healthiest seedling per pit** and remove the rest. One strong plant per pit gives far more pods than three weak ones fighting for food and light.

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8. Irrigation Schedule

Stage	Watering
First 2 months	Light watering every 2–3 days (daily in peak summer)
Growing stage	Once a week in dry months
Flowering & pod formation	**Most critical** — never let the trees go thirsty here; water every 5–7 days
Monsoon	Usually no irrigation needed; ensure drainage

> **Warning:** Overwatering kills more moringa trees than drought. If water stands around the trunk for days, roots rot. When in doubt, water less.

9. Fertilizer Schedule

Feed the soil, and the tree feeds you. These are **general guidelines used by many farmers** — for exact doses, get your soil tested and consult your local agriculture officer.

When	What to apply (per tree)
At pit filling	10 kg FYM/compost + 100 g neem cake
3rd month	50 g urea + 50 g single super phosphate, mixed in soil around the tree
6th month	Repeat the 3rd-month dose
Every year (bearing trees)	10 kg FYM + 100 g nitrogen + 100 g phosphorus + 100 g potash, in two splits (before monsoon and after)

> **Organic tip:** Panchagavya or jeevamrutha as a soil drench every month keeps trees green and vigorous with almost zero cost.

10. Growth Stages — What to Expect

Stage	Age	What happens

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Seedling	0–2 months	Fast vertical growth, delicate stem
Vegetative	2–6 months	Branching begins, trunk thickens
Flowering	A few months after sowing (varies by variety & season)	Clusters of small white fragrant flowers
Pod development	After flowering	Pods lengthen quickly — harvest at tender stage

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11. Pruning & Cutting — The Secret to More Pods

Pruning ("small cutting") is what separates an average tree from a heavy yielder. A pruned tree stays short, bushy, and easy to harvest.

1. **First pinch:** When the plant reaches about **1 metre**, pinch or cut the growing tip. This forces side branches.
2. **Shape the tree:** Keep 3–4 strong side branches; remove weak, crossing or inward-growing shoots.
3. **After every harvest:** Cut back long branches to 1–1.5 m height. New shoots will sprout and carry the next crop.
4. **Yearly pollarding:** Once a year after the main harvest, cut the tree back hard to about 1 m. Feed it with FYM — it will regrow stronger.
5. **Always remove** dead, dried or diseased branches immediately.

> **Tip:** Use a sharp, clean secateurs or saw. Blunt tools tear the bark and invite infection. Cut at a slight angle so rainwater runs off.

12. Pest & Disease Control (Safe Way)

- **Hairy caterpillars** — hand-pick in the morning; spray neem oil (5 ml/litre) in the evening.
- **Aphids & whiteflies** — strong jet of water, then neem oil spray. Repeat after 7 days.
- **Pod fly** — collect and destroy fallen infested pods; don't leave them under the tree.
- **Leaf spot / root rot** — almost always caused by excess water. Improve drainage; remove affected leaves.

> **Note:** Start with neem-based and cultural control. If the attack is severe, consult your agriculture officer before using chemical pesticides — and never spray close to harvest.

13. Harvesting

- Pick pods when they are **tender, green and 30–60 cm long**. Over-mature pods turn fibrous and lose market value.
- Harvest **every 10–15 days** during the season — regular picking encourages more flowering.
- Harvest in the **cool morning hours**; pods stay fresh longer.

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- For **seed production**, leave selected pods on the tree until they turn fully brown and dry, then collect.

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14. Year-Round Maintenance Calendar

Period	Key activities
Pre-monsoon (May–June)	Pit digging & filling, FYM application, prepare for sowing
Monsoon (June–Sept)	Sowing/transplanting, gap filling, weeding, drainage check
Post-monsoon (Oct–Nov)	First fertilizer top-dressing, first pinching/pruning, pest watch
Winter (Dec–Jan)	Light irrigation as needed, remove dead wood, mulch around trunk
Spring (Feb–Mar)	Flowering care — regular water, second fertilizer dose, bee activity is good
Summer (Apr–May)	Peak harvest, weekly irrigation, prune after harvest flush

15. Common Mistakes to Avoid

1. Sowing too deep (more than 3 cm) — seeds rot before emerging.
2. Skipping thinning — 3 weak plants instead of 1 strong one.
3. Overwatering — the #1 killer of moringa.
4. Never pruning — tall, lanky trees with few reachable pods.
5. No manure after the first year — yields crash from year two.
6. Letting all pods mature — regular tender harvest keeps the tree productive.

Start with the right seed.

Farm-fresh Bhagya KDM-1, ODC-3 and PKM-1 — harvested, sun-dried and graded on our own farms. Cash on Delivery available across India.

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