



Core Crop Production Activities

The key to success is the creation of an organized production program that is carefully planned and properly implemented. The steps below highlight core activities and proper timing.

DBT = days before transplant

DAT = days after transplant

DBT: 45+ Days

Step 1 Preliminary evaluation of site and production plan

DBT: 30-45 Days

Step 2 Soil & bed preparation

DBT: 25-40 Days

Step 3 Installation and testing the drip irrigation system

Step 4 Planting live barriers

DBT: 10-20 Days

Step 5 Cleaning the edges of the farm plot

Step 6 Install trellis/support system (disinfect stakes before placement)

Step 7 Install the wire hoops if a row cover is to be used

DBT: 0 Days

Step 8 Transplanting

DAT: 1 until the end of the crop

Step 9 Begin an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program

- Know what pests and diseases to expect beforehand
- Formally scout the field twice a week and record information
- Weeds & abandoned crops are the most common source of problems
- Early treatment is preferred – most chance of success. Pay careful attention to proper mixing/measurements of pesticides and application techniques

DAT: 3-7 Days

Step 10 Perform root growth induction by restricting water availability

DAT: 5-15 until the end of the crop

Step 11 Begin irrigation and nutrition program after stressing the plant

DAT: 1 - until the end of the crop

Step 12 Perform cultural tasks

- Secure the drip tape against the wind
- Weed control
- Remove any plants infected by virus
- Trellising
- Pruning
- Collect and dispose of damaged fruit
- Proper harvesting, postharvest handling, etc.

DAT: Days depend on the crop

Step 13 Removal of plants the day after the last harvest

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