



Weekly Special Agriculture Bulletin



Punjab Agricultural University Ludhiana

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WEATHER FORECAST: Possibility of dry weather along with cold wave conditions during the next 4-5 days. Dense fog and ground frost may also occur at few places during the period.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS:

WEATHER PARAMETERS	SUB-MONTANEOUS ZONE	CENTRAL PLAIN ZONE	SOUTH-WESTERN ZONE
Maximum Temperature (°C)	11 - 16	12 - 16	12 - 16
Minimum Temperature (°C)	4 - 8	3 - 8	2 - 8
Morning Relative Humidity (%)	88 - 96	88 - 96	88 - 96
Evening Relative Humidity (%)	59 - 87	59 - 87	65 - 87

WEATHER CROP OUTLOOK: Possibility of dry weather along with cold wave conditions during the next 4-5 days. Dense fog and ground frost may also occur at few places during the period. Farmers are advised to give light and frequent irrigation to protect crops from cold wave and frost conditions. Keep the animals under shed during the prevailing cold wave situation.

CROPS:

Wheat: Farmers are advised to give recommended irrigation during the period and plan light irrigation in view of possible cold wave and frost conditions. Farmers are advised to sow variety PBW 757 after 15th of December (up to 15th January under irrigated condition) and apply 55 kg DAP or 155 kg single super-phosphate per acre at sowing. DAP is used as source of phosphorus however, if single superphosphate is used then apply 20 kg urea per acre. Broadcast 45 kg urea for timely sown crops and 35 kg per acre for wheat crop sown after mid-December each with first and second irrigation. To control phalaris minor in wheat, apply pre-emergence herbicides Stomp 30 EC (pendimethalin) @ 1.5 litre per acre or Awkira/Momiji 85 WG (pyroxasulfone) @ 60 g per acre or use platform 385 SE (pendimethalin + metribuzin) @ 1.0 litre or Daksh plus 48 EC (pendimethalin + metribuzin). Use any one of herbicide within 2 days of sowing by using 200 litres of water per acre. In medium fertility soils, apply 55 kg DAP/acre at sowing to irrigated wheat as a source of nitrogen and phosphorus. After first irrigation Phalaris minor and wild oats can be controlled by spraying Clodinafop 15 WP @ 160 g/acre or Fenoxaprop pethyl 10 EC @ 400 ml/acre or Leader/SF 10/ Safal/Marksulfo 75 WG (Sulfosulfuron) @ 13 g/acre or Axial 5 EC (Pinoxaden) 400 ml/acre. To control both grassy and broadleaf weeds apply Atlantis 3.6 WDG (mesosulfuron+iodosulfuron) 160 g/acre or Total/Markpower 75 WG (sulfosulfuron + metsulfuron) 16 g/acre or Accord Plus (Fenoxaprop+ Metribuzin) 500ml/acre or Shagun 21-11 @ 200g/acre or ACM-9 @ 240g/acre. Spray either of the herbicide in 150 litres of water after 30-35 days of sowing by using flat fan nozzle. Do not apply Accord Plus, Shagun 21-11 and ACM-9 on Unnat PBW 550 wheat variety. Avoid the use of Shagun 21-11 and ACM-9 on light textured soils. Do not sow sorghum and maize during *Kharif* season where Sulfosulfuron has been used.

Sugarcane: Apply light irrigation to save the crop from cold wave conditions and frost. Start crushing/harvesting (for mill purpose) early maturing varieties. Soon after the harvesting, remove the trash and irrigate the fields. When the soil attains the optimum moisture condition, loosen it by inter-culture. Do not cover stubble with cane trash.

Oilseed: Apply light irrigation to save the crop from cold wave conditions and frost.

Pulses: Apply need based light irrigation to avoid any adverse effect due to cold wave conditions. Give hoeing to gram and lentil to keep weeds under check.

Fodder: *Oats:* First cutting of early sown oats may be taken during this month to meet the fodder scarcity. Avoid taking 2 cuttings from oats where heavy infestation of the Poa is there.

Berseem: Apply light irrigation at regular interval as per weather during the period. In light textured soils in paddy-based system, the deficiency of manganese may appear in berseem crop. The mid stem leaves show pinkish brown spots which later on form necrotic lesions. To control this deficiency, spray the crop after two weeks of cutting with 0.5% manganese sulphate solution (1/2 kg manganese sulphate in 100 litres of water per acre). Two to three sprays are required at weekly interval on sunny days. In Berseem crop affected with stem rot, cut the crop and expose the soil to the sun.

- Vegetables:**
- Apply light irrigation at regular interval to save vegetables from cold wave and dry weather.
 - Potato Growers are advised to monitor their fields regularly for the late blight symptoms and can go for preventive sprays of contact fungicide like Indofil M-45/ Antracol/Kavach @ 500-700g @ 750-1000g/acre or in 250-350 litres of water before the appearance of late blight at 7 days interval. If the risk conditions persist, spray Curzate M-8/Melody Duo 66.75 WP/Ridomil Gold/ Sectin 60 WG @ 700g or Revus 250 SC @ 250 ml or Equation Pro@200ml per acre at 10 days interval. Never use under dose or self-prepared tank mixtures as this may lead to the development of resistant strains of the pathogen.
 - Aphids attack in Potato can be reduced by spraying 300 ml Metasystox 25 EC in 100 litres of water per acre. Do not spray these insecticides within 3 weeks of harvest.
 - Provide *sarkanda* or polythene sheet to protect the tomato plants from frost. Dwarf tomato varieties can be saved from frost injury by covering of individual plants with 100-gauge thick white plastic bags of 35 x 25 cm size.
 - Transplant 6-8 weeks old seedlings of onion in the field during first fortnight of January. Apply 20 tonnes well rotten farmyard manure together with 45 kg of urea, 125 kg single superphosphate and 35 kg muriate of potash per acre before transplanting. To control purple blotch, spray the crop with 300g Caviat or 600 g Indofil M- 45 mixed with 200 ml of Triton or linseed oil as sticker in 200 liters of water/acre. Spray may be repeated at an interval of 10 days.

- Fruits:**
- Keep the cold sensitive and young fruit plants such as mango, papaya, guava, litchi, dragon fruit etc. protected from cold wave and frost with already prepared thatches during the month. Repair the protective structure if required.
 - One irrigation should be applied to the ber trees during this month as the fruits are in the developing stage.
 - This is most appropriate month for planting of deciduous fruit plants such as peach, plum, pear, grapes etc. However, peach and plum should be planted up to mid-January whereas pear, grapes, fig and phalsa can be planted up to end January i.e. before bud swelling and the emergence of new flush. The soil preparation and layout of the field for planting of deciduous plants can be initiated.
 - It's most suitable time for pruning of deciduous fruit trees like peach and plum.

Animal Husbandry: Keep the animals under protected shed during the period. Keep them warm by providing clean and dry bedding. In winter, take care not to bathe the animals during morning and evening hours but bathe them during noon. Specially they must not be bathed when cold winds are blowing. For clean milk production, the area around udder should be cleaned thoroughly with a brush and later on wipe with a clean cloth. Also do not tie the animals outside during extreme winter as milk production and health of animals can be severely affected.

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