

656. Grewal, S.S. 1985. Gravelly soils can be productive. *Farmers' Journal*, 5(11):27-28.

Gravels are often found in the soils of hilly and semi-hilly regions. These coarse fragments interfere with cultivation, reduce effective soil mass and change soil physical behaviour. Three gravelly soils at Chandigarh contained 18, 28 and 40 percent gravels by volume and four crops viz. sorghum, cowpeas, sesamum and maize were raised under rainfed conditions for 3 years. These were followed by a uniform winter crop of *taramira*. The mean *taramira* yield was 275, 410 and 683 kg/ha with gravel concentration of 40, 28 and 18 percent, respectively. Maize gave the lowest and sorghum fodder the highest returns at all the three gravel concentrations. The drought tolerant crops having fibrous root system like sorghum can thrive well on such gravelly soils.