

## Rejuvenation of old and senile orchards of Guava

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Guava commonly referred to as "Apple of tropics" is the fourth most important fruit crop after mango, banana and citrus. The fruit is a good source of vitamin C, pectin, calcium and phosphorus. The plant is quite hardy, prolific bearer and highly remunerative even without much care. However, over time the orchard tends to be senile & unfruitful. Fruit trees require proper canopy management to ensure productivity over long run. Neglected orchards tend to be un-productive over time and renders huge losses to growers. However, with appropriate technology the old and senile orchards can be revived and can be made productive.

### Technology for rejuvenation in Guava:

- ❖ The unproductive exhausted trees should be headed back to a height of 1 to 1.5 m above ground level during May-June or December-February to encourage the growth of new shoots below the cut end.
- ❖ The new emerging shoots should be allowed to grow up to a length of 40-50 cm, which can be obtained in 4 to 5 months of pruning.
- ❖ Well spaced 4 to 6 shoots oriented outwards should be retained and other shoots that are growing inward should be pruned. These shoots should be further pruned to facilitate branching and emergence of multiple shoots below the pruning end.



- ❖ The cut ends should be applied with Bordeaux paste which is prepared from lime, copper sulphate and water in the proportion of 1:1:10 (1 kg copper sulphate in 5 l of water + 1 kg lime in 5 l of water mixed thoroughly by stirring).
- ❖ The criss crossed densely populated branches can be thinned to facilitate better light penetration and aeration within the canopy.
- ❖ This second pruning helps in maintaining the canopy structure and its size.
- ❖ The multiple shoots developed as a result of second pruning are capable of producing flower buds for rainy season crop. The grower interested for the rainy season crop can allow flowering and fruiting in these shoots.
- ❖ However, if the winter crop is desired as the fruits from winter crop are superior in quality and are free from fruit fly incidence, it is advisable to restrict the rainy crop by pruning the shoots (50 %) again in May. The new shoots which emerge after the summer pruning produce desirable crop in winter season.
- ❖ The procedure of periodic pruning is continued every year (May-June) for proper shaping of tree canopy and to ensure enhanced production of quality fruits during winter season.

