

# STYLO

(*Stylosanthes guianensis*)

Stylo is an important perennial leguminous fodder crop for drought conditions. It is a crop of warm, humid and tropical climate and can be grown as soil binding crop to check erosion in the interior districts of Odisha.

**Climate:** Stylo is a warm season growing legume that thrives in places where annual temperatures are between 23 and 27°C. However, stylo can survive light frost and can remain productive down at lower temperatures. Stylo does well in most soils from sands to light clays provided they are well-drained. Soil pH ranging from 4 to 8.3 is favourable for this crop.

**Land Preparation:** For effective germination, it is best to have moist soil pressed closely against the seed, which is best achieved with a fine, firm seedbed. Line to line spacing of 50 cm and plant to plant spacing of 30 cm are maintained to get optimum plant population.

**Improved varieties:** *Stylosanthes hamata*, *Stylosanthes scabra*, *Stylosanthes guianensis*

**Sowing time:** In kharif season it is sown in the 2<sup>nd</sup> fortnight of June upto end of July. But with irrigation facility this can be sown at any time in the summer.

**Seed rate:** The seed rate is 6 kg/ha.

**Manures and fertilizers:** 5 tonnes/ ha of FYM is to be applied at the time of final land preparation. A basal fertilizer dose of 14kg urea, 130 kg DAP and 33kg MOP per hectare (NPK: 30:60:20) is required for stylo. Half of the nitrogen should be applied at the time showing and remaining may be applied during the crop growth period.

**Seed treatment:** Seed of stylo crop should be soaked in water for 10-12 hours to soften the hard coat. After that seeds are treated with rhizobium culture @ 200g per 10 kg of seeds.

**Irrigation:** In kharif season no irrigation required. In the rabi season, irrigation is required at an interval of 3 week.

**Harvesting:** First cut is taken 70-80 days after sowing and subsequent cuts are taken at an interval of 60-70 days.

**Yield:** Green fodder yield: 250-300 quintals/ha and dry fodder yield: 60-75 quintals/ha.

