

# Gliricidia

It is a perennial legume tree, its leaves are excellent source for Green manuring

It can be an excellent live fence because it grows very quickly and becomes very dense

A plant can give about 20kg of leaves each year

If one farmer have 0.5 acre land fenced with 200 gliricidia trees can add 4 tons of green manure to his field every year



The leaves has about 3% N and C:N ratio is 18

# Live Fence



It can be an excellent live fence because it grows very quickly and becomes very dense. The mango orchards can have fences like this, which will work as wind break and provide organic matter to the soil also



Cutting and using as Green Manure





Using Gliricidia leaves as  
Green Manure



# How to Grow it?

- It can be propagated by seed, usually sown in plastic sachets
- the seedlings are usually cut back, as "stumps" prior to planting. The usual precautions to avoid seedlings drying out or being exposed to direct sunlight should be observed.
- No scarification or pre-treatment of seeds is required prior to germination, and germination rates above 90% are typical.
- Following germination, trees grow extremely quickly and may attain a height of 3 m before flowering at 6-8 months.
- Its rapid growth makes it an aggressive pioneer species



1. Soak the seeds in water overnight
2. Put the soaked seed in a polytube filled with soil and compost mixture (3:1), the tube should have a small hole (use punch machine used to hole paper) at the bottom to drain extra water.
3. Keep the seeded tubes under partial shade (may be under a 50% green shade net)



The seeds will start germinating after a week

The seedlings will be ready for planting in 6-8 weeks , when the stem is about 1cm diameter.

Before planting cut the stem at 25cm above the soil level with a sharp secateurs

This cutting will prevent the seedling drying out when planted in the open, it will also facilitate side branches to grow, becoming a bush

Remove the polythene tube by cutting it with a sharp blade





**Gliricidia establishes readily from cuttings or 'quick sticks' and is ideal for shade trees, support trees or 'living fences.**

**Cuttings should be mature branches >7 cm in diameter which are brownish-green in bark colour. The cutting is normally cut obliquely at both ends, discarding the younger tips, and the base inserted 20-50 cm into the soil depending on the length of the cutting.**

**Cuttings sprout in 8-10 days, 6-8 weeks after the sprouting these can be transplanted in the min field. August is the ideal time for planting**





## Gliricidia for Improving the Soil

- Green manures had no significant impact on soil pH, but the bulk density declined significantly. So it improves the heavy clayey soil in low lands
- The green manure adds plenty of organic carbon in the soil due to which the beneficial microbial activity increases a lot, resulting in more availability of soil nutrients year after year, reducing dependency on chemical nutrients.
- Adding organic carbon in the soil also increases the water holding capacity of the soil, thus retaining the soil moisture for longer time, the soil requires less frequent irrigations
- **Fodder:** *Leaves are rich in protein and highly digestible for ruminants like goat and cattle, as they are low in fibre and tannin. There is evidence of improved animal production (both milk and meat) in large and small ruminants when Gliricidia is used as a supplement to fodder. However, non-ruminants fed on *Gliricidia sepium* have shown clear signs of poisoning.*