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**Domain:**

**Smart Agriculture**

**Course:**

**Management of high-value cut-flowers  
(ASTE 2201)**

**Practice topic:**

**Bed preparation for gerbera**



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## Selection of Soil

The main factors to consider are soil pH, electrical conductivity and texture of the soil.

- Soil pH should be in between 5.5 to 6.5.
- The salinity level of soil should not be more than 1 mS/cm. Therefore, soon after selection of the site, it is mandatory to get the soil analysed to decide further reclamation.
- The soil should be highly porous and well drained to have better root growth and better penetration of roots. The roots of gerbera go as deep as 50 - 70 cm.

To enhance soil porosity, FYM and rice husk can be mixed with soil @ organic manures 10kg / square metre and rice husk 4kg/ square metre.





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## Preparation of beds

In general, Gerberas are grown on raised beds.

The dimensions of the bed should be as follows:

Bed height : 45 cm  
Width of bed : 65 cm  
Pathways : 30 cm





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## Disinfection of beds

Before plantation of gerbera seedlings, disinfection of soil is absolutely required. In particular, the fungus *Phytophthora* is a menace to gerbera.

Disinfection can be done by mixing Hydrogen peroxide @ 35 ml/litre of water (3.5% solution). 1 litre of solution is applied to 1 metre square bed. On the next day gerbera seedlings can be planted.





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## Basal Fertilizer requirement



After disinfection, neemcake (@1kg/Sq.m.) should be added as prevention against nematode.

Basal fertilizer requirements after bed preparation are:

Single Super Phosphate	: 25kg/100sqm
Magnesium Sulphate ( $MgSO_4$ )	: 5kg/100sqm
Micro Nutrients	: 2 kg/100sqm