

Plant density:

To ease harvesting, trees should be planted close to each other in rows at a distance of 1.5 m between plants and with 2.5 m space between rows.

In an area of 10,000 sq m (1 ha) you will need 1,000-3,000 seedlings depending on distance between rows.



Shade from trees or self-made shadows:

It is important that the seedlings are transplanted in fields with shade. Alternatively, you can make shade using bamboo and grass.



Transplanting:

Transplanting should be done at the beginning of rainy season. Planting holes should be 50x50x50 cm and soil mixed with manure.



Melientha Cultivation - Farmer Guide

Melientha is an evergreen forest tree, up to 10 m high, with young leaves much favoured in various Lao dishes. Unfortunately, the Melientha trees are unsustainably harvested, where parts or whole trees are cut down, seriously threatening the species.



STEP I. Collecting seeds

Melientha seeds are collected from the forest when fully ripe (turned dark yellow) during June - July without damaging the tree.



STEP II. Remove pulp

Immediately after the harvest, in order to speed up germination, remove the fleshy skin layer (pulp) by hand or with a soft brush. Avoid damaging the seeds.



Remove floating seeds:

Use clean water, leave the seeds overnight (max 6 hours) and remove seeds floating on top of the water.

Drying the seeds:

Dry the seeds in a shaded place with good air circulation for 1-3 days.



Step III

Seed Germination

Soil:

Use good planting soil that is mixed with rice husk and organic fertilizers. This will provide the best conditions for seed germination.

Pre-germinations in seedbed or plastic tray:

In a shaded area, place the seeds in small seedbed or in tray with holes and with at least 10 cm of soil. Place seeds 1.5-2 cm under soil surface (5 cm space in rows) and water daily. Surplus water should easily be drained away. After 3-5 days the seeds will start to germinate.



STEP IV. Nursery



Transfer seeds to planting bags:

Use nursery plastic planting bags and make sure surplus water can drain out by making holes at the bottom. In the bags filled with soils, make a planting hole with a finger or a small stick and place germinated seeds 4-5 cm under the soil surface. Water at least 1-2 times per day and add organic fertilizers every 2 months. Reduce water gradually 3-4 weeks before transplanting.

STEP V. Land preparation and transplanting

Land:

Best land is well drained soils in shaded areas provided by old or newly planted trees.

