

## An income yielding, slow drying flower - Ixora



The main problem with flower cultivation is that it should harvest and marketed in time. Only a few flowers are exempted from this. One such flower is Ixora commonly called Idli poo / Vritchika poo in Tamil. This doesn't dry even after 3 days. In the plant it stays fresh upto 7 days. Dr. Sakthivel, Veterinary Doctor, Attur, Salem is cultivating this successfully in 60 cents of land.

This crop doesn't require ploughing for almost 10 years and the flowers can be plucked even 2 days later and also the water requirement is less. In the initial year yield is less, whereas as years roll on the yield increases substantially. This crop can be planted in every season except in heavy rainy season. The land should be fertile with irrigation facility. The land should be ploughed twice to get good tilth and aeration. Since the plant is maintained for 10 years, enough quantity of Farm Yard Manure should be applied. Ridges are formed at 9 feet spacing and the plants are planted at 3 feet spacing. Grafts are used for planting. Red coloured Ixora has good market. The polythene sheet should be removed before planting. 1000 grafts are required for 60 cents of land. It takes 6 months for harvest. Till then intercropping with onion, marigold, coriander, bean, cowpea, black gram can be done. Following drip irrigation reduces weed growth. Weeds can be removed using power tiller. Irrigation should be done in alternate days. 50 gm of groundnut cake should be applied once in 60 days. It may be replaced with castor cake, pungam cake, neem cake and Mahua cake (elupai).

Ants are the main problem as they come to take the honey. To control them Spray 1 tank Monochlorophos 60ml mixed with 50gm of wettable sulphur. In 3 years, the plant grows to a height of 7feet. The branches should be pinched to maintain short stature for easy plucking of flowers. When 80% of buds have bloomed they can be plucked. This can be done even at 50%. Since the flowers are big, it gives more weight. Harvesting can be done once in a week after 6 months. On an average, 7kgs of flowers can be obtained in a week. In 12 months this can be obtained once in 2 days. The price fluctuates between Rs. 50 – 80 / kg. Dr. Sakthivel sells his flowers in Salem market.

Ixora is used for making garlands as its shelf life is long. He advices the farmers to study the market before entering into Ixora cultivation.

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### Economics of Ixora cultivation in 60 cents

S.No	Particulars	Expenditure	Income
1.	Ploughing	300	-
2.	Farm Yard manure (3tonnes)	3000	-
3.	Grafts Rs.4*1000	4000	-
4.	Pits and planting	500	-
5.	Drip irrigation	5000	-
6.	Weeding	2400	-
7.	Power tiller (1hr)	500	-
8.	Groundnut cake	900	-
9.	Pesticides	400	-
10.	Harvest 170kg Rs. 50*170		8500

### Intercropping Income

1.	Onion 3 months		25,000/-
2.	Marigold (4 months)		7000/-
<b>Total</b>		<b>17,000</b>	<b>40,500/-</b>
<b>Net profit in a year</b>			<b>23,500</b>

**Note:**This is calculated for first 6 months, as the days go by, the yield increase and the initial cost is reduced. The net profit per year can go upto Rs. 1, 00,000/ year /acre.

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