

### 3. Linseed (*Linium usitatissimum* L.)

#### Botany and importance

It belongs to plant family Linaceae and locally known as alsi. It is an annual rabi plant grown for its seed and fiber. The stem is thin and rounded, and about 50-100 cm tall. This crop has tap root system and flowers may be white, blue, or dark-red. The fruit is capsule containing about 10 shiny, flat seeds. The seed contains 20-25% protein and 30-40% oil. It is used in the manufacture of paints, varnishes, paper and strawboard.

#### Climate

Linseed is grown in temperate as well as tropical regions.

#### Varieties

- Chandni

#### Soil and seedbed preparation

Well-drained medium-loam soil is best for this crop cultivation. It can be planted in both rainfed and irrigated areas. For seedbed preparation two ploughings are required for each followed by planking.

#### Sowing time

- 15 Oct - 15 Nov

#### Seed rate

- Use 6 kg/acre in irrigated areas and 8 kg/acre in rainfed areas.

#### Sowing method

Cultivation is done with drill in rows 30 cm apart.

#### Fertilizer application

Crop	N	P	K	Fertilizer
Linseed	23	23	12	1 bag DAP+1/2 bag urea+1/2 bag SOP/MOP

#### Irrigation

Normally, 3-4 irrigations are applied especially at following stages.

- Before flowering.
- After flowering.
- At pods formation.

#### Weeds

Itsit, jawai, dumbi Sitti, lashkni booti, bathu, krund and shahtra.

- Daab method and hoeing are traditional methods to control weeds.
- Use Pendimethaline @ 800ml/L to control by chemical method.

#### Diseases

Alternaria blight, white rust, downy mildew, stem rot and bacterial black rot are most serious disease which can be controlled by seed treatment with fungicide.

- Concern to extension workers and use recommended chemicals.

#### Insects

Termite, grass hopper, aphid, mustard sawfly, cabbage butterfly and painted bug.

- Use recommended insecticides to control these insects.

#### Time of harvesting

This crop is harvested at end of April or start of May.