

## **Malai vembu**

The trees grow well in sandy loam, red, and lateritic soils with an annual rainfall of 800 mm and above.

### **Seed processing and pretreatments:**

Reports state very poor germination in Melia. Studies at IFGTB reveal germination as high as 60 per cent without any pretreatments. The drupes should be graded in water to remove floating seeds before sowing.

**Nursery: Seed sowing:** It is best to sow seeds during March – April. Cleaned and dried seeds should be sown in the open raised nursery beds, in drilled lines, 5 cm apart. Germination occurs within 90 days.

### **Plantation management**

A spacing of 5 x 5 m is optimal while a spacing of 8 x 8 m is ideal. Pruning every six months controls branching. The bole is straight, and round, without any knots and any buttress.

### **Yield**

The tree attains a volume of 15 cu. ft. at the end of 15 years. The growth rate ranges from 20-25 cm per year when intensively managed and 6 to 8 cm per year in unmanaged plantations. It is expected to produce 12 to 15 Cu.ft. ( 0.4 - 0.5 cu.m) of timber in 5 years. Presently Melia fetches Rs. 7300/- per tonne for billets of girth 50-120 cm girth and above Rs.370 per CFT (0.02 cu.m.) for trees that have attained a girth > 120 cm.

### **Uses**

It is a good secondary timber and the most preferred species for the plywood industry. The species is also highly adaptable. The species is in high demand by the plywood industries.

\*(The yield will be varied based on edaphic, climatic factors and management practices)