

TARO

Recommended variety

Thailand variety

Climate and Soil Requirement

The plant grows well in warm and moist soil deep, friable loams rich in organic matter with high water table having pH 5.5 to 7.8. The ability of the plant to transport oxygen from the leaves to the roots make the plant adaptable to water-logged soils. So, the plant can be planted both on dry-land and wet land.

Planting Material

Suckers are used as planting material. The suckers with about 20 – 30 cm of petioles are planted on prepared ridges or beds. The leaves had to be cut before planting to the field._

Field Preparation

Selected sites are cleared of vegetation by means of herbicides or slash-and-burn. Either beds or ridges are prepared for the planting.

Planting and Spacing

The suckers are planted to the prepared beds by first digging small holes of 5 – 7 cm deep each then putting in the suckers and covering them with soil. The rows may be 90 – 120 cm apart with between plants spacing of 30 – 45 cm on raised beds.

Manuring

Taro responds well to fertilization. Fertilizer at 30 g of 15:15:15 are applied per point during planting and another 30 g at 3 – 4 months later. Weeding up to 3 months are necessary. Irrigation and some fertilizing are necessary to enhance yield.

Harvesting

Taro can be harvested 8 – 12 months after planting depending on variety. For “Thailand” variety it can be harvested 9 – 12 months after planting. As mature corms or cormels are fully formed, they may be harvested either by pulling or digging up with the hoe. The leaves may be removed by cutting and then the corms and cormels may be selected.

Production Cost Estimates

Variety : Thailand
Density : 18,518 suckers/ha.
Planting distant : 1.2 m X 0.45 m
Production acreage : 1 hectare
Maturing : 9 – 12 months

Type of preparation/ material	Cost (RM)	Family labour		Total cost (RM)
		Man Day***	Cost (RM)	
Planting material*	3,703.60	-	-	3,703.60
Site preparation and beds		80	1,200.00	1,200.00
Planting	-	20	300.00	300.00
Manuring**	2,300.00	10	150.00	2,450.00
Weeding, mulching and removing suckers	-	127	1,905.00	1,905.00
Chemical (weedicide, insecticide & fungicide)	500.00	10	150.00	650.00
Harvesting	-	48	720.00	720.00
Total Production Cost	6,503.60	295	4,425.00	10,928.60

*Planting material @ RM200.00/1,000 suckers

**NPK Green @ RM2,000.00 per ton

***1 man day = RM15.00