CULTIVATION OF PRACTICES

1. Soil Requirements 🌍

Lentil grows best in well-drained loamy or sandy loam soil.

It can also grow in light clay soil.

Ideal soil pH: 6.0 – 7.5.

Waterlogging is harmful to the crop.

2. Climatic Requirements 🌤️

Lentil is a cool season (Rabi) crop.

Optimum temperature: 18–30 °C.

Requires cool climate during growth and warm dry weather at maturity.

Moderate rainfall of 30–40 cm is suitable.

Cultural Practices

1. Land Preparation 🚜

Field should be ploughed 2–3 times to make fine tilth.

Remove weeds and crop residues.

Apply 5–10 tons FYM per hectare during final ploughing.

2. Time of Sowing and Varieties 🗓️

Time of Sowing

October – November (Rabi season)

Improved Varieties

K-75 (Malika)

Pant L-406

PL-639

JL-3

3. Method of Sowing 🌱

Seeds are sown by line sowing using seed drill or behind the plough.

4. Spacing

Row spacing: 30 cm

Plant spacing: 10 cm

5. Seed Rate

30–40 kg seed per hectare.

6. Seed Treatment

Treat seeds with Carbendazim or Thiram (2–3 g/kg seed).

Seeds should also be inoculated with Rhizobium culture for better nitrogen fixation.

7. Manures and Fertilizers 🌿

FYM: 5–10 tons per hectare.

Recommended fertilizer dose:

Nitrogen (N): 20 kg/ha

Phosphorus (P_2O_5): 40 kg/ha

Fertilizers are applied at sowing time.

8. Irrigation 💧

Lentil usually grown under rainfed conditions.

If irrigation is available:

First irrigation at flowering stage

Second irrigation at pod formation stage

9. Interculture and Weeding

1–2 weeding during early growth stage.

First weeding 25–30 days after sowing.

10. Diseases

Common diseases:

Rust

Wilt

Powdery mildew

Control:

Use disease-resistant varieties and fungicide spray.

11. Pests 🐛

Major pests:

Aphids

Pod borer

Control:

Spray recommended insecticides or neem-based products.

12. Harvesting 🌾

Crop matures in 100–120 days.

Harvest when plants turn yellow and pods dry.

Plants are cut and dried, then threshed.

13. Research Stations

Indian Institute of Pulses Research (Kanpur, India)

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

14. Yield

Average yield: 1000 – 1500 kg per hectare.