

Cultivation of Milk Thistle can change the Fortune of the Farmers

Seeds of milk thistle contain Cillimarine and Cilibin elements, which are useful against liver diseases. Medicines containing these elements are also useful against Hepatitis, Sirosis, Fatty infiltration, Fever and Diabeties. Medicines prepared by using elements of milk thistle are popular in European and American markets.

Looking at the importance of milk thistle, farmers of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh are cultivating it since long back. Dr. K.N.S. Sharma, Deputy Director, Horticulture department, Solan (H.P.) expressed hope that it's demand will grow in the future.

Farmers do not have correct knowledge of cultivating medicinal plants, therefore, they do not give much importance to their cultivation. However farmers can change their fortune by cultivating them.

Seed rate of milk thistle is 6 qt./acre, which cost Rs. 30/ kg. It can be sown during the month of September or October. The crop matures within five months period. As per some estimates farmers can earn profit of Rs. 11,500/- from an acre of land.

Source : Krishk Jagat dated 5-11 September, 2005.