

# Flushing, Flowering and Fruiting in Cashew

## Flushing in Cashew

**(a) Only flushing is observed while there is no yield. What is the reason for this?**

**(b) Some trees flush profusely but won't flower. Why?**

This type of variation is observed in the plantations which are established with seedling progenies or the plants may be suffering due to poor soil fertility and lack of moisture in the soil. This problem will not be seen in the plantations established with grafts following recommended package of practices.

**(a) How many scions can be collected from one tree?**

The number of scions available from one cashew plant in the scion bank is as follows:

Years after planting	No. of scions/plant
2	15-20
3	40-50
4	80-100
5	120-150
6	More than 150

## Flowering in Cashew

**(a) One year old cashew grafts have flowered. Whether the flowers are to be removed. If so why? If flowers are not removed whether the plant dies?**

Upto two years after planting, flowers should be removed to allow the canopy to develop and to put forth good vegetative growth. The plant does not die if the flowers are removed.

**(a) Some trees don't yield despite profuse flowering. Why?**

**(b) Though there is profuse flowering there is no yield. Why?**

In a plantation raised with seedlings, these types of trees are very common. As they produce mostly the male flowers (99%), we won't get any yield from them. Such plants have to be removed or top worked with a high yielding variety. Hence, plantation should be established with grafts of high yielding varieties which have high sex ratio (more number of bisexual flowers) to overcome this problem.

**(a) Why all the cashew plants don't flower at a time?**

Cashew is a highly cross pollinated crop and the seeds are heterogenous. Hence in a plantation which is established with seedlings, all the plants do not flower at a time. If the orchard is established with grafts of a particular variety all the plants will come to flower at a time.

**(a) Numbers of male flowers are more than that of bisexual flowers, why?**

In each cashew flower panicle there will be 200-800 flowers, of which 0.5 - 25.0 per cent will be bisexual flowers depending upon the variety. This is a genetically controlled character. All

the high yielding varieties of cashew produce more number of bisexual flowers (i.e. they have high sex ratio).

**(a) Whether morning dew during flowering causes low yield?**

If the flower opening in cashew coincides with morning dew/fog, then the moisture accumulates on the dried up male flowers which are in plenty and cloudy weather continuously for 2-3 days during this period will result in drying up of flowers/entire flower panicle. During cloudy weather the population of tea mosquito and flower thrips population may also increase, resulting in crop loss. This results in poor yield.

**(a) What is the reason for less flowering during some years?**

Generally cashew plants require about 25-30 days of dry spell before producing new flushes and flower panicles. If the rainfall is received even during Nov-Dec, months less flowers panicles are produced, particularly in the early flowering types.

**(a) One to two year old grafts are turning red and dying after removing flowers. What is the reason?**

The plants will not die if flower panicles are removed from one to two year old cashew grafts. The plants may be dying due to lack of moisture in the soil. Hence, pot watering should be done during summer months, particularly during the first year of planting.

## **Fruiting in Cashew**

**(a) The nuts of VRI-2 are chaffy and light. What are the reasons and how to rectify it?**

VRI-2 is a high yielding cashew variety with small sized nuts. Small nut size is the varietal character. If one wants to change this variety, then it can be replaced with another desirable variety with bold nuts by adopting top working technology and this is possible only in homestead gardens. In the case of top worked trees mortality due to cashew stem and root borer (CSRB) will be high. Instead, replanting with grafts of bold nut variety may be taken up.

**(a) Cashew nuts get spoiled, why?**

Spoilage of cashew nuts could be due to any of the following reasons.

- (i) Insect attack.
- (ii) Harvesting of immature nuts.
- (iii) Improper drying of harvested nuts.
- (iv) Delay in drying the freshly harvested nuts particularly during monsoon season which results in spoilage during subsequent storage.
- (v) Only fallen nuts should be collected, sun dried for 2-3 days and stored in gunny bags.