

Best agricultural practices for the cultivation of spider plant (*Gynandropsis gynandra*)

Names



Gynandropsis gynandra (L.) Briq.
Spider plant (Eng.)
Caya blanc, Chou Africain (Fr.)
“Akaya” (Fon), “Sabo” (Adja), “Efô Oko” (Yoruba/Nago), “Somboe/Sobui” (Ewe)

Utilization

The species is a leafy vegetable with high nutritional (Ca, Fe, Mg, P, K, Cu, Zn, Vit. A, B1, B2, C, E) and medicinal values (traditionally used to treat malaria, fever, otitis, headache, icterus).

Nursery

- ❑ Sowing can be made either on raised beds or in plastic trays.
- ❑ Plough the soil and construct a fine seedbed after applying organic manure. Seeds are drilled in lines (not deeper than 1 cm) of about 10-15 cm apart (Fig 1.)
- ❑ If you are using plastic trays, fill them with a mixture of sand and organic manure. Sow three to four seeds per hole (Fig 2).
- ❑ The nursery will be watered using a watering can with a fine spray rose. Beds and trays should be under a shelter.



Fig. 1: Nursery on bed



Fig. 2: Nursery in trays

Transplanting

- ❑ Fertilize the plots using organic manure 5 to 7 days before transplanting.
- ❑ Transplant seedlings 2 to 3 weeks after sowing when they have four to six true leaves.
- ❑ Use 15 cm x 15 cm or 20 cm x 20 cm as spacing.

Watering and fertilization

- ❑ After transplanting, water the plants twice a day.
- ❑ Apply organic manure (poultry manure, compost, goat manure) at 10-15 t/ha 5 – 7 days before transplanting, three weeks after transplanting (Fig. 3) and after each cutting.



Fig. 3: Application of poultry manure

Weeding

- ❑ Weeding should be done every two or three weeks. Keep the plots clean.

Harvest and sale

- ❑ Harvest three weeks after transplanting by cutting at 15 cm height (Fig. 4 and 5). Use clean knives for the harvest. Two to three additional harvests can be done every two weeks after cutting.
- ❑ Alternatively, the whole plants can be uprooted.



Fig. 4: Spider plant harvest



Fig. 5: Plot ready for sale

Acknowledgement: This factsheet was financially supported by the Applied Research Fund of the Netherlands Organization for Science Under the Project CLEONOMICS (Project Number: W.08.270.350).