

Maru Gaurav: New karonda variety

The karonda, Maru Gaurav has been released by Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur. It is an extraordinary high yielding variety with more than 40 kg fruits/plant. Mean bush height and canopy diameter is 3.19 m and 3.5 m respectively. It is regular bearer with spreading growth habit, and starts fruiting in fourth year after planting. Its flowering and fruiting occurs during March-April but fruits mature in August-September. Average fruit weight 3.74 g, edible part 88.5%, TSS 9.4° Brix, acidity 2.8%, vitamin C 35.88 mg/100 g, dry matter 12.85%, total sugar 5.63% and reducing sugar 3.56%.

KARONDA (*Carissa carandas*) is an evergreen spiny shrub or a small tree, in the family Apocynaceae. It is very popular as a protective hedge and thrives well in tropical to subtropical climate including arid conditions. It is drought tolerant and can be grown with minimal care and management. Besides the use of plants in bio-fencing, its berry shaped fruits having nutraceutical values can be used in chutneys, pickle and candy making.

Maru Gaurav

Maru Gaurav is an improved high yielding variety of karonda developed by selection from seedling population after long term evaluation (2006-17). The plants are vigorous, spreading type, with dense canopy. Mean plant height 3.19 m, plant spread 3.7 m(E-W) and 3.31m (N-S). Leaves are small (width 2.4 cm, length 4.18 cm), opposite, elliptic or obvate, obtuse often shortly mucronate, glabrous and shining, base subacute petiole. Seed propagated plants

start flowering and fruiting in fourth year of planting while air layered or budded plants may start flowering and fruiting in just second year. The peak flowering is during March-April with fruit set during April month. The fruits mature during August-September and mean fruit yield during eighth year onwards is 40 kg/plant or even more. The average fruit weight is 3.74 g, fruit length 2.18 cm, fruit girth 1.63 cm, no. of seeds 6.3, pulp 88.5%, TSS 9.4° Brix, acidity 2.8%, vitamin C 35.88 mg/100g, dry matter 12.85%, total sugar 5.63% and reducing sugar 3.56%.

PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY

Propagation

Seed

The easiest and most commonly followed method of

