

Azolla Cultivation and feeding livestock

Azolla



Azolla is a floating water fern rich in nitrogen, beta carotene and minerals. This can be fed as feed to cattle along with concentrate feed after washing of the dung odour. Azolla feeding supplied nitrogen to ruminal microbes which in turn converts into microbial protein in the rumen besides the supply of vitamin and minerals.

Cultivation procedure

1. Establish a small pit of 3'x6'x1' size under the tree shade
2. Cover this pit with a layer of plastic sac to protect from the intruding root system and then with PVC sheet of 15GSM thickness
3. Apply 1-2 basket full of soil into this PVC sheet lined pit
4. Fill the pit with water and mix 1-2 kg of cow dung into this. Also apply 5 g of rock phosphate or superphosphate into the water bath every week
5. Release a hand full of azolla pinnatta into this water bath and mix this bath once in 2-3 days and remove any excessive fallen tree leaves in order to maintain the pH only in neutral pH the azolla will grow well.
6. Azolla will multiply at a faster rate and will double in its volume by every 3 -4 days , once the entire water bath is fully covered by floating azolla then it is ready for harvest.
7. 250 g azolla (wet weight) can be harvested daily form one pit
8. Wash this azolla thoroughly with fresh water to get rid of cow dung odour and dry it under shade for 3-4 hours and then mix it with the concentrate feed and feed it to the cattle
9. Feeding of azolla improves the milk yield besides improving the quantity of milk fat