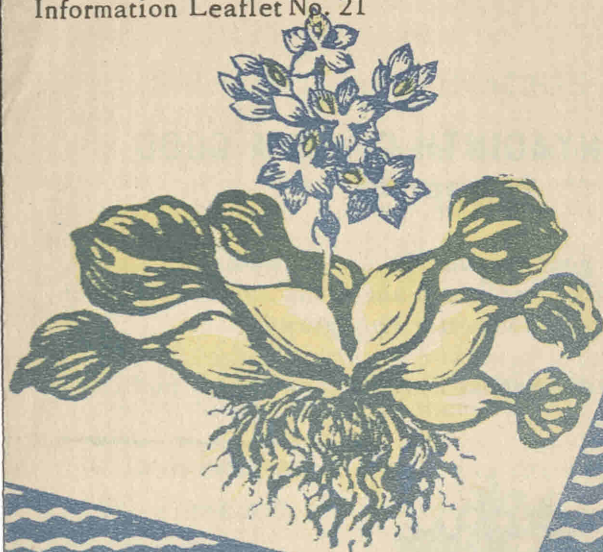


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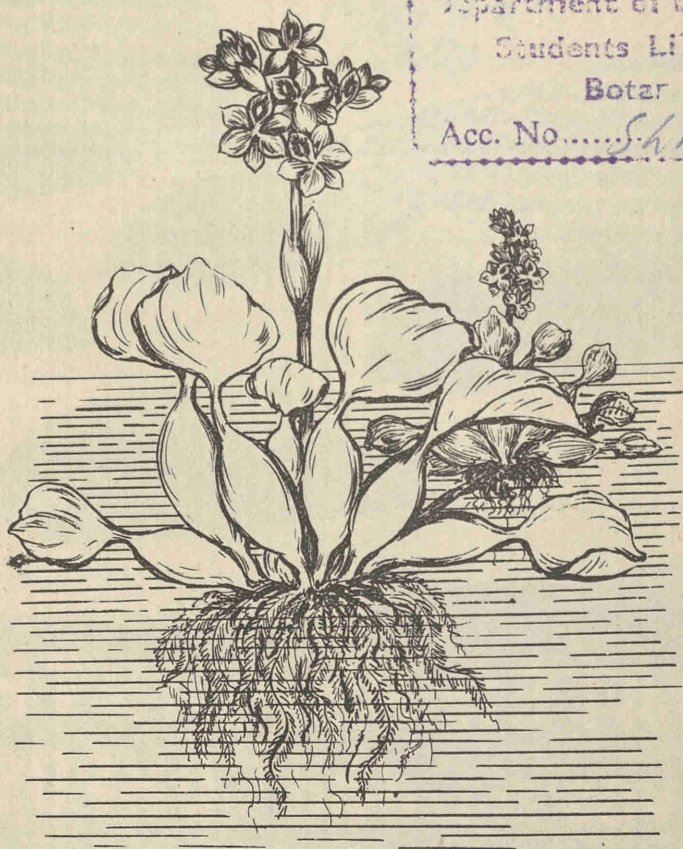
# **WATER HYACINTH Gives a Good COMPOST**

**Farm Information Unit  
Directorate of Extension, Ministry of Food and Agriculture  
New Delhi.**

## WATER HYACINTH GIVES A GOOD COMPOST

Compost is a good manure for crops. Being an organic manure, it not only supplies plant foods to the soil, but also improves the soil for better crop growth.

You can prepare compost from all farm wastes including weeds.



Water hyacinth, a bad weed growing in many waterways and tanks, can be utilized for making a rich compost.

Removing the weed for preparing compost will clear the waterways for better navigation and also will make the area healthier.

## PREPARING THE COMPOST

Water hyacinth compost is best prepared in pits or in overground heaps.

In areas with a low rainfall, water hyacinth should be composted in pits. In wet areas, however, it should be composted in overground heaps.

7 Dig a pit of any convenient size, depending on the quantity of the weed available.

- \* Collect the weed from the water.
- \* Spread it loosely in a layer about a foot deep in the pit, or on the ground. Do not trample upon the weed while making the heap.
- \* On this spread a 'starter' like cowdung, cowdung mixed with a little tank silt or canal mud, urine-soaked earth or prepared compost, one to two inches thick.
- \* Pile up water hyacinth and the starter in alternate layers till the heap rises to a convenient height of say, six feet.
- \* Give the top a conical shape, and plaster it with mud and cowdung.

You can prepare three to four or more such heaps at a time.

- \* After about a month, the heap will shrink down to half of its height. Give the heap a complete turning. If you have more than one heap, turn all the heaps and mix two or three heaps together to make one. Give

the top of the heap a conical shape again and plaster with mud.

\* Give another turning to the heap after about a month.

The compost will be ready after about three to four months, depending on the season.

For every 100 maunds of fresh water hyacinth you will get about ten maunds of mature compost.



Compost prepared this way from water hyacinth is twice as rich in plant foods as town compost and four times as rich as farmyard manure.

One ton of such compost having 30 per cent moisture will give about

- \* 32 pounds of nitrogen which is as good as 160 pounds of ammonium sulphate,
- \* 17 pounds of phosphoric acid which is as good as 106 pounds of superphosphate, and
- \* 39 pounds of potash which is as good as 78 pounds of muriate of potash.

A ton of water hyacinth compost will be worth about 54 rupees of fertilizers.

## PREPARING WATER HYACINTH ASH

Water hyacinth ash is very rich in potash, lime and phosphoric acid. One hundred pounds of it contain 29 pounds of potash, 13 pounds of lime and seven pounds of phosphoric acid. This ash is highly beneficial to acidic soils. When applied to such soils it will promote excellent crop growth.

For preparing water hyacinth ash, collect the plants, dry them in the sun, and burn them.

For correcting soil acidity, you can apply seven to 27 maunds of this ash per acre depending on the nature of your soil.

The ash is very good for most crops like sugarcane, potato, jute, cotton, etc. You can apply three to eight maunds of water hyacinth ash per acre, depending on the crop you want to grow.

FOR ANY FURTHER HELP YOU CAN CONTACT  
YOUR GRAM SEVAK OR AGRICULTURAL OFFICER.

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