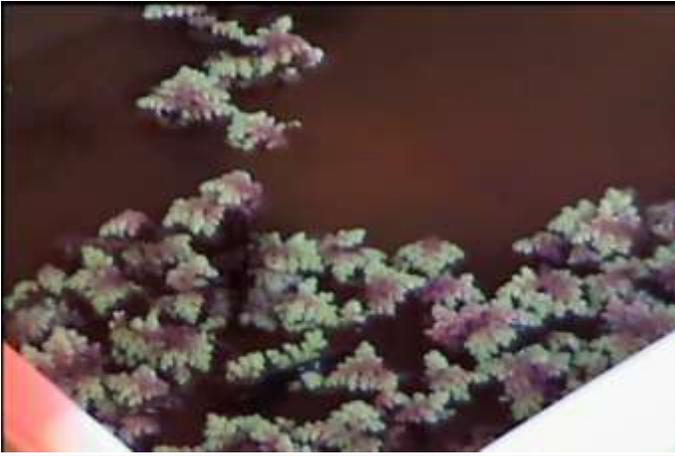


# Azolla Preparation

1



Gather azolla, and bring it home in a plastic cover, then put it in a tub that has water in it. It will be fresh for only 2 days. It should not be exposed to sunlight.

2



Make a pit that is 5 feet by 3-3 ½ feet. The floor of the pit should be very even. Remove any roots.

3



Spread out the plastic sheet. It should be 2 feet longer and 2 feet wider than the pit, with no holes. The sheet must be spread out smooth. The sheet's outer edges should be fixed with mud so that they don't move. Making this mud wall around the pit also helps to keep things out of the pit. Any mud that has fallen in should be removed completely.

4



Now fill the pit with water. The depth of the water should be the same as the height of a brick. The water level must be maintained daily – if it goes down add more water. Even small holes in the sheet will result in water leakage.

5



Add 1 ½ kilograms of cow dung.

6



Bring azolla in jeevamuthra water and add it to the pit.

In 15-20 days, the azolla will grow to fill the pit.

7



The pit must be in the shade. If the pit isn't under a tree, build a shelter for it.

If the shelter is damaged, you must repair it.

8



When the azolla has grown to fill the pit, remove some and wash it to get rid of the cow dung smell before feeding to the cow.

If the cow will not eat it, wash it again and give it to the cow.

Start with feeding the cow 75-100 grams of azolla daily in the morning, then increase up to 1 kg.

From time to time, add jeevamuthra or cow dung water (slurry). Every now and then ½ to 1 kg of cow dung can be added. Do not dry the azolla.

If you remove 100 g of azolla from the pit one day, the next day it will have grown back. Azolla can also be used to fertilize paddy. Azolla absorbs nitrogen from the atmosphere.