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Weather Based Agromet Advisories for Telangana in Horticultural Crops

(19-03-2026 to 25-03-2026)

Weather of the past two days:

- **Past 2 Days:** The weather remained dry across the state. Maximum temperatures ranged between 31°C – 37 °C, while minimum temperatures were recorded at 21°C – 22°C.

Weather forecast for the next Five days:

- **Maximum Day Temperature:**31°C – 36°C
- **Minimum Temperature:**20°C – 26°C

The prevailing warm days and cool nights with dry weather favour vegetative growth of most vegetable crops but also support the multiplication of sucking pests and early disease incidence, especially under irrigated conditions.

Weather-based vegetable recommendations:

General Management

- Monitor for pre-monsoon thunderstorms or squalls, which are common during mid-March ensure standing crops are protected from potential wind or hail damage.
- Shade Net: Utilize 50 % shade nets for nurseries and delicate crops to reduce heat stress
- Provide light and frequent irrigation to maintain optimal soil moisture, particularly for shallow-rooted leafy vegetables.
- Water in the early morning or evening to reduce evaporation losses. Implement drip irrigation to save water.
- Soil Management: Deep ploughing is recommended to destroy soil-borne pathogens and pests.
- Use mulching with dried leaves or straw to retain soil moisture in existing vegetable beds
- Ensure proper field drainage to avoid water stagnation and prevent root diseases.
- Apply mulching (organic or plastic) to conserve moisture and suppress weeds.
- Carry out intercultural operations (weeding and earthing up) in standing crops.
- Use Maize as border crop in every 5 rows in vegetables to maintain extreme temperature, wind and pests.

Pest & Disease Management

- **Aphids** (Tomato, Brinjal, chilli, Beans, cucurbits and leafy vegetables)
  Spray Fipronil 5% SC @ 2 ml/L or Imidacloprid @ 0.3 ml/L of water.
- **Whitefly** (Tomato, Okra, Chilli)
  Install 20 yellow sticky traps per acre.
  Spray Imidacloprid @ 0.3 ml/L.

- **Fruit Borer** (Brinjal, Tomato)
  Spray Flubendiamide + Thiacloprid @ 0.5 ml/L or Emamectin benzoate + Fipronil @ 1.2 ml/L.

- **Black Thrips**(Chilli, Brinjal)
  Install 20 blue sticky traps and 20 yellow sticky traps per acre.
  Spray *Beauveria bassiana* @ 5 g/L or Spinetoram @ 1.0 ml/L.

- **Leaf Miner**(Tomato, Brinjal, Watermelon, Muskmelon, Bitter gourd, Bottle gourd and Ridge gourd)
  Spray Spinosad 45 SC @ 0.3 ml/L or Emamectin benzoate 5 SG @ 0.4 g/L.

- **Rust** (Beans like Dolichos bean, Cluster bean, French bean and cowpea)
  Spray Hexaconazole 5 EC @ 1 ml/L or Tebuconazole 25 EC @ 1 ml/L.

- **Mosaic Disease** (Okra, Cooking melon & Gourds)
  Control insect vectors by spraying Imidacloprid 17.8 SL @ 0.3 ml/L or Acetamiprid 20 SP @ 0.3 g/L or Dimethoate 30 EC @ 1 ml/L.

- **Potato -** Grade the potatoes and store them in a cool place before marketing, and remove any diseased or rotten tubers regularly.
- **Chilli:** Harvest fruits at full red ripe stage (physiological maturity) for better colour, quality and higher dry recovery.Stop irrigation 7–10 days before harvesting to increase dry matter and facilitate proper drying.Separate diseased or damaged fruits and dry the harvested chillies on clean tarpaulin or cement floor until moisture reaches about 8–10% for safe storage.

Fruits

- **Mango:** At fruit development (lemon size), regular irrigation should be maintained. At the lemon stage, foliar spraying of 13-0-45 (Multi-K) @ 10 g /L+ 0-52-34 @ 10 g /Lof water along with Boron @ 1.25 g, Zinc @ 1 g, and Magnesium @ 2 g per litre of water. In case of severe infestation of sucking pests such as thrips, spray Buprofezin @ 1.25 ml /litre of water or Fipronil @ 2 ml/ litre of water. Install blue sticky traps @ 10 traps/Acre. Fruits in egg size should be covered with fruit protection bags to prevent from pest and disease infestation and unseasonal rains. Bags should be tied 2-3 cm above the fruit stalk end.

- **Acid lime and Sweet orange** - Weekly irrigations should be given to maintain proper soil moisture. Spray 10 g/lit of potassium nitrate to improve fruit growth. **If Mangu/Mite observed in sweet orange spray wettable sulphur @ 3g/l or Propargite @ 2.0ml/l**

- **Jamun -** Withheld of irrigation from February –march for blossoming, fruit bud formation and fruit development. Apply mulch around tree basin to conserve moisture.
- **Ber –**
  - Conduct annual pruning to remove old, unproductive wood and shape the tree for better light penetration and air circulation.
  - Regular watering. Weeding is done around the basins.

- **Karonda -** Due to the high intensity of heat in the month of March, regular irrigation (watering) should be provided to newly planted saplings as well as trees currently in the flowering stage.

Grape

- Harvesting: Complete the harvest of table grapes by late March to avoid quality loss from rising temperatures.
- If temperature exceeds 37°C, provide light drip irrigation (10,000–13,000 L/acre/day).
- Reduce irrigation to improve sugar accumulation and prevent berry cracking.
- Maintain wapsa (field capacity) condition; avoid flooding.
- **Sucking Pests (Thrips & Aphids)**
    - Spinosad 45 SC: Apply at 0.3 ml/L for effective control of grape thrips.
    - Emamectin Benzoate 5 SG: Apply at 0.4 g/L as a systemic option.

Downy Mildew & Rust

- Propineb 70% WP: is recommended as a protectant against disease at a dosage of 600g per acre.
- Thiophanate Methyl 70% WP**:** acts as a systemic fungicide for broader protection.

<u>Medicinal and Aromatic Plants</u>

- **Aloevera -** Continue need-based irrigation and remove dried or diseased leaves; monitor pests and undertake timely plant protection measures
- **Ashwagandha –** Prepare the field layout and carry out sowing of seeds. Before sowing seeds can be treated with Thiram or Indofil or Dithane - 45 @ 3 gm/kg seed), before sowing to protect seedlings from seed borne diseases.
- **Lemongrass -** Harvest the crop at the appropriate stage in the evening. After harvest shade dry the grass for 1-2 days. Then distillation of essential oil is to be done.
- **Geranium -** Provide need-based irrigation; undertake weeding and necessary plant protection measures.
- **Mint** - Harvest the crop at the proper stage of maturity.
- **Basil** - Spraying a 2% urea solution on nursery plants 15 to 20 days before transplanting helps in producing healthy seedlings for transplantation.
- **Ajwain -** In Rabi-sown crops, after harvesting, dry the plants for 2–3 days and then carry out threshing, winnowing, cleaning, and store the seeds in gunny bags.

- **Coriander**
  - If coriander is sown in late winter, give light irrigation regularly to maintain soil moisture and protect the crop from heat.
  - Remove weeds from thefield to ensure better growth and development of the crop.
  - In Rabi-sown crops, after harvesting, dry the plants for 2–3 days and then carry out threshing, winnowing, cleaning, and store the seeds in gunny bags.
- **Fenugreek**
  - The crop will be ready for harvest in 10-11 weeks. Provide light irrigation at flowering and pod stage.
  - The plants should be cut down. After harvesting, the plants should be dried in the field for 2-3 days.
- **Oilpalm -** In mature oil palm plantations, maintain adequate soil moisture by supplying about 160–200 liters of water per palm per day through drip or basin irrigation. During March, as temperatures increase, protect palms from hot winds and moisture stress by mulching the palm basins or by sowing three rows of sun hemp around the basin. When sun hemp reaches the flowering stage, cut and spread it in the basin as mulch. Mulching conserves soil moisture, suppresses weeds, regulates soil temperature, and improves soil fertility. Materials such as dried leaves, male inflorescences, coconut husks, empty fruit bunches, shredded fiber, and other organic residues can be used. In mature plantations, continue monthly fertigation through drip by applying approximately 5 kg Urea, 3 kg DAP, 5 kg MOP, 1.2 kg Magnesium sulphate, and 240 g Borax per acre.

  Warm and dry weather may favor pests like leaf webworm; spray Beauveria bassiana @ 5 ml/L of water, and in severe cases apply Lambda-cyhalothrin or Indoxacarb @ 1 ml/L and repeat after 15 days if necessary. Farmers should also monitor palms for rhinoceros beetle damage such as bore holes in the crown and chewed fibers in the whorl, and install pheromone traps to reduce the population. Remove and destroy fronds affected by leaf-eating caterpillars or bagworms, maintain field sanitation, and control ants to reduce mealybug infestation. Neem-based sprays such as 5% NSKE may be used when pest levels are low. Palms should also be inspected for basal stem rot, and infected palms should be removed promptly to prevent disease spread.

FLOWERS

- Sudden thunder storms and lightening can cause changes in temperature and relative humidity which triggers biotic and abiotic stress. The following recommendations has to be followed in flower crops to prevent damage.
- Prevent water logging conditions by providing proper drainage and spray carbendazim 1 g/liter to prevent root rot and wilt in standing crops like Chrysanthemum,Rose,Marigold and Jasmine
- To prevent abiotic stress spray salicylic acid 100 ppm as foliar spray and rejuvenate plants from nutrient loss due to leaching by Spraying 13-0-45 @ 4 g/l and micronutrient mix spray @ 5 g/l after the thunder storms cease.