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Knowledge Paper 232 | PQNK
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Ask PQNK Field Answers 4: Cumin, Date Palms, Canola, Jantar Seed and When PQNK Began

Answers from Asif Sharif to the fourth set of questions the Ask PQNK assistant could not yet answer: cumin, date palms, canola, Jantar seed, when PQNK began, PQNK farmers near you, and fish feed

When the assistant does not know, it says so, and the question comes to the author. His answer is then published here, so the next farmer who asks gets it at once.

About This Paper

This is the fourth paper in the Ask PQNK Field Answers series. The questions below reached Ask PQNK, the PQNK assistant on WhatsApp and at pedaver.com/ask, on 20 and 21 November 2026, and it could not answer them from the PQNK library. They were passed to Asif Sharif, Researcher and Developer of PQNK, and his answers are published here. The earlier sets are in KP-226, KP-227 and KP-228.

1. Cumin on PQNK

Question: Is there a video or article on growing cumin (zeera) on PQNK? My area is Khanewal, the land is sandy and the water is from a tube well.

PQNK is a universal natural design, meant for every crop and every region, so there is no need to write an article on each crop. After the land has been converted from conventional farming to PQNK, all it needs is enough space for each plant to grow and thrive. On PQNK, plants do not compete with each other underground; they compete only for sunlight, which is why we give each plant enough space.

For cumin, 4 lines on a 42-inch (107 cm) bed, with 8 to 12 inches (20 to 30 cm) from plant to plant, are recommended. That makes about 35,000 to 52,000 plants per acre, or about 50,000 at 8 inches.

2. Date Palms: Pruning, Suckers and Spacing

Question: Is pruning necessary for the Dhaki date palm, and at what time should its suckers (offshoots) be moved?

The date palm has narrow, thick leaves and stems that store water, so that it can withstand desert conditions. It does not need pruning. Only the lower hanging or dry fronds may be removed.

Suckers should be removed and replanted in mild weather, in spring or autumn.

Question: What should the distance be from plant to plant and from row to row for date palms?

For a high-density date plantation, we recommend 10 feet by 10 feet (3 m by 3 m) spacing: 436 plants per acre.

3. Canola: Pruning

Question: How should canola be pruned?

For canola and all rapeseed varieties, prune when the plants reach about 12 inches (30 cm) in height, or when flowering starts. Cut off the leader shoot 2 inches (5 cm) below the top.

4. Jantar Seed: How Many Seeds in 8 kg?

Question: How many seeds of Jantar would there be in 8 kg?

A kilogram of Jantar seed holds between 45,000 and 62,000 seeds, depending on the seed lot. So 8 kg holds about 360,000 to 500,000 seeds.

5. How Many Countries Practise PQNK?

Question: In how many countries is the PQNK method practised on farms, and is it recorded?

PQNK knowledge is open source, freely available on multimedia channels and on our website, so it is not possible to count the farmers practising it in each country. PQNK is practised by nature in every natural habitat, and by a large number of farmers in every country.

6. When Did PQNK Begin?

Question: What is the date PQNK began?

PQNK began some 400 million years ago, when the first plants grew to provide food for all the species that depend on them.

We understood the natural algorithms of production agriculture in 2008, when we visited the Amazon forests and studied how nature works in harmony as a closed-loop ecosystem for soil fertility, plant protection and thriving vegetation. We started applying the fundamental principles step by step on our first 44 acres, growing rice in moist soil rather than in flooded, saturated soil. It took another 8 years to apply all the principles to most crops, in most topographies and climatic regions, and to develop the machines that apply them: the bed shapers and the SIPP and VIPP precision no-till planters.

7. What Is the PQNK GAP?

Question: What is the PQNK GAP?

Chapters 22 and 23 of the PQNK book serve as the PQNK GAP (Good Agricultural Practices): Chapter 22, The Four Governing Rules, and Chapter 23, The Eight-Step Transition Protocol. Chapter 31, The Closed-Loop Farm, tells how to reach the sustained condition of a closed-loop farm.

8. Is There a PQNK Farmer Near Me?

Question: I am going to prepare 32 kanal of land in the Fateh Jang area. Is anybody already practising PQNK nearby? (A farmer from District Lodhran sent only his address, with the same request.)

As a policy, we do not register farmers who practise PQNK, so we cannot share anyone's contact details. This is for their privacy and safety.

9. Fish Pond Feed

Question: Is duckweed better, or Azolla, or a mix of both? And how can we make tilapia feed ourselves?

We do not have practical experience and evaluation of these, so we cannot make any recommendation on them.

Already Answered on pedaver.com

Farmers also asked again about moong spacing and about the jobs the mulcher does. Moong spacing is answered in KP-227, Ask PQNK Field Answers 2, and the mulcher in KP-228, Ask PQNK Field Answers 3.

Conclusion

Every question a farmer asks is a gap the library can close. PQNK is one natural design for every crop and every region: once the land is converted, the farmer's main decision is how much space to give each plant, as these answers on cumin, date palms and canola show.

PQNK Principle: Underground, plants do not compete. Give each plant enough space for sunlight, and it will thrive.

Related PQNK Sources

1. KP-226: Ask PQNK Field Answers 1. https://pedaver.com/papers/ask-pqnk-field-answers-1/

2. KP-227: Ask PQNK Field Answers 2. https://pedaver.com/papers/ask-pqnk-field-answers-2/

3. KP-228: Ask PQNK Field Answers 3. https://pedaver.com/papers/ask-pqnk-field-answers-3/

4. PQNK Book, Chapter 22: The Four Governing Rules; Chapter 23: The Eight-Step Transition Protocol; Chapter 31: The Closed-Loop Farm. https://pedaver.com/books/natural-ecosystem-science/

5. Ask PQNK: https://pedaver.com/ask, or on WhatsApp at https://wa.me/923437506442

Read Online

This Knowledge Paper and the full PQNK library: https://pedaver.com/papers/ask-pqnk-field-answers-4/