



“Silage Making” (Bag Method)



Introduction:

Green fodder is an essential feed component of dairy animals which regulates production and reproduction. Many a times there is scarcity of green fodder and it affects the reproduction as well as increases the cost of production as we have to compensate by concentrates. Therefore it is recommended to store the green fodder in flush season by making silage.

Silage making is the controlled fermentation of green fodders followed by storage in airtight condition. Silage can be prepared from cereal fodder crops like jowar, maize and also from grasses as well as legume fodders.

Procedure:

Harvest the crop at pre flowering stage. Dry the fodder till moisture content is reduced to about 65% and chaff it. Fill up the chaffed fodder compactly and uniformly in the inner polythene bag. Trample the mass in inner bag manually and finally close the inner polythene bag to maintain anaerobic conditions inside. Finally close the outer thick polythene bag. After 4-6 weeks silage is ready for feeding.

Advantages:

Silage provides good quality fodder to livestock round the year. Its nutritive value is nearly same as like green fodder. It is palatable and can be prepared in any season. Silage can be stored safely for about 1 year without any major change in its nutritive value.

Precautions:

Container should be 100% air tight. If mould / fungus growth is observed after opening the container (after 4-6 weeks), that silage should not be fed to the animals.

Note:

A bag of this can be prepared using polyethylene sheet or we can also procure it from commercial firms.



Chaffing of green fodder in size of 2-3 cm, filling of chaffed fodder inside the inner polythene bag



Stamping of Green fodder to make airtight condition inside the silage bag



Closure of inner polythene bag to maintain anaerobic condition inside the inner bag



Completely closed silage bag (Closure of outer thick polythene bag)

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