







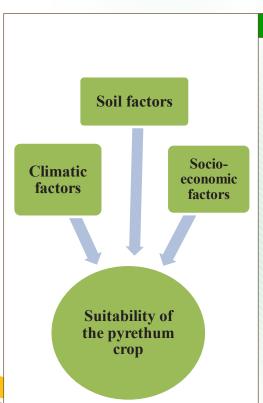


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Pyrethrum Production Niches and Climatic Requirements

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These are a range of resources and conditions which enable high yields in the pyrethrum value chain. Production niches of the pyrethrum crop are informed by broad categories of factors. They include; climatic, edaphic and socio-economic factors.



Climatic factors.

The average weather conditions of a place that favour the growth and full development of the pyrethrum crop. They comprise:

- Rainfall and water
 - Pyrethrum crop requires a minimum of 750mm of rainfall well spread over the cropping season.
- Altitude
 - Between 1500 up to 3000 is ideal for pyrethrum production. Always choose the right clone/ variety for specific altitudes.
- Temperature
 Should be between 16°c-18°c is important in the process of initiating flowering.
- Light aspects such as light intensity, wavelength and duration affect the extent and quality of photosynthesis.

Edaphic/ Soil requirements

These are plant requirements derived from the soil environment or the rhizosphere zones of the plant roots.

They include:

- Soil depth and fertility affect rooting and the ability to supply plant nutrients. Soils should be deep and fertile.
- Soil pH of between 5.8-6.5 is ideal for pyrethrum production.
 At optimum pH there is a balance in Macro and Micro elements in soil.
- Good soil structure that ensures proper water infiltration so as to prevent waterlogging and soil erosion.
- Soil drainage and texture should be good as they affect Aeration and water movement.
- Freedom from soil borne pests and diseases.

Socio Economic Requirements

These are the factors that influence suitability of an enterprise and emanate from the society. They include:

- Good Infrastructure provides an enabling environment for farming operations.
- Education, adequate research and capacity building.
- Good policy frameworks to help cope with problems facing the pyrethrum sub-sector.
- Good Markets and marketing plans.
- Accessibility to capital resources by farmers.
- Human workforce. Young, energetic and resourceful people need to be deployed in extension service provision.

