

FarmLens Ltd

Website: farmlens.africa | App: app.farmlens.africa | Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya



Crop details

Green Gram

Vigna radiata

Family: Fabaceae

Categories

Legumes & Pulses

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Quick stats

| | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Family | Fabaceae |
| Typical harvest | 1.3 t/ha |
| Varieties | 48 |
| Pests and diseases | 96 |
| Seasons | 48 |

Crop profile

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Growth habit | annual |
| Days to harvest | 65 |
| Main uses | Dry grain for ndengu stew, porridge and flour; young plants and haulms for animal feed. |
| Pollination | self |
| Origin and where it grows | Green gram (ndengu) is widely grown in warm, semi-arid and coastal areas of East Africa, often as an intercrop or rotation after cereals. |

Weather, soil and spacing

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Best temperature | 22 - 30 °C |
| Rainfall | 400 - 800 mm/yr |
| Altitude | 0 - 1500 m |
| Best pH | 6 - 7 |
| Soil type | Light to medium, well-drained soils. Green gram (ndengu) does well on sandy loams and loams with reasonable fertility. |
| Row spacing | 45 cm |
| Plant spacing | 10 cm |
| Planting depth | 3 cm |
| Seed rate | 15 kg/ha |

Simple notes for farmers

About the crop: This crop is annual; it grows and is harvested in one season. Harvest typically starts about 65 days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for dry grain for ndengu stew, porridge and flour; young plants and haulms for animal feed..

Pollination: Mainly self; healthy flowers and pollinators improve fruit set.

Where it grows: Green gram (ndengu) is widely grown in warm, semi-arid and coastal areas of East Africa, often as an intercrop or rotation after cereals.. Grouped under: Legumes & Pulses.

| # | Stage | DAP | Product | Rate | Targets (kg/ha) | Notes |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|--|
| 1 | Basal at planting | 0 | NPK 10-24-10 or similar starter | 35 kg/ha | N: 3.5, P?O?: 8.4, K?O: 3.5 | Apply in small bands or spots near ndengu seed, not directly in the planting hole. |
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| 2 | Optional K topdress (early flowering) | 30 | Muriate of potash (MOP) or NPK with K | 20 kg/ha | N: 0, P?O?: 0, K?O: 12 | Use in fields with repeated Green gram (ndengu) cropping and full residue removal. |
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Nutrient requirements

| <u>Nutrient</u> | <u>Stage</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Unit</u> |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| N | Basal | 8 | kg/ha |
| P?O? | Basal | 18 | kg/ha |
| K?O | Basal | 12 | kg/ha |
| N | Topdress_early | 0 | kg/ha |
| P?O? | Topdress_early | 0 | kg/ha |
| K?O | Topdress_early | 10 | kg/ha |
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Field images



Varieties

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Country</u> | <u>Maturity (days)</u> | <u>Traits</u> |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|--|
| Early ndengu – short duration | KE | 60 | Early Green gram (ndengu) for short rains; escapes end-of-season drought. |
| Medium-duration Green gram (ndengu) | TZ | 70 | Good grain size and colour, suited to semi-arid and coastal areas. |
| Local ndengu landrace | KE | 75 | Traditional flavour and cooking quality; moderate yield and good adaptation. |
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Fertilizer recommendations

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| Basal | NPK 10-24-10 or DAP (small dose) | 35 | Provides starter phosphorus for roots and nodulation of Green gram (ndengu). |
| Topdress (optional K) | Muriate of potash (MOP) or NPK with K | 20 | Used mainly in K-deficient fields and where residues are removed. |
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Pests and diseases

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Type</u> | <u>Symptoms</u> | <u>Management</u> |
|---------------|-------------|---|---|
| Flower thrips | pest | Silvery or brown flowers, poor pod set and small pods on Green gram (ndengu). | Plant early, avoid very late planting, and use recommended insecticides only when damage is severe. |

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| Aphids | pest | Clusters of small insects on young shoots of ndengu, curling leaves and sticky honeydew. | Encourage natural enemies and use selective sprays only if populations are very high. |
| Pod borers | pest | Holes in ndengu pods, webbing inside pods, damaged seeds. | Scout during flowering and early podding; use biopesticides or insecticides early when first damage is seen. |
| Powdery mildew | disease | White powdery growth on leaves, which later turn yellow and dry. | Use tolerant Green gram (ndengu) varieties and avoid very dense planting. |
| Leaf spots | disease | Brown or dark spots on ndengu leaves; in severe cases leaves dry prematurely. | Use clean seed, rotate with non-legume crops and avoid planting continuously on the same field. |
| Storage weevils and bruchids | pest | Small holes and powder in stored Green gram (ndengu) grain. | Dry grain well, cool it, then store in airtight containers or treated bags; clean stores between seasons. |
| Flower thrips | pest | Silvery or brown flowers, poor pod set and small pods on Green gram (ndengu). | Plant early, avoid very late planting, and use recommended insecticides only when damage is severe. |
| Aphids | pest | Clusters of small insects on young shoots of ndengu, curling leaves and sticky honeydew. | Encourage natural enemies and use selective sprays only if populations are very high. |
| Pod borers | pest | Holes in ndengu pods, webbing inside pods, damaged seeds. | Scout during flowering and early podding; use biopesticides or insecticides early when first damage is seen. |
| Powdery mildew | disease | White powdery growth on leaves, which later turn yellow and dry. | Use tolerant Green gram (ndengu) varieties and avoid very dense planting. |
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Yields

| <u>System</u> | <u>Typical</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>Max</u> | <u>Notes</u> |
|---|----------------|------------|------------|--|
| Smallholder rainfed (low input) | 0.7 | 0.4 | 1 | Local ndengu, little or no fertilizer, basic weeding. |
| Smallholder rainfed (improved management) | 1.2 | 0.8 | 1.8 | Improved Green gram (ndengu) varieties, good spacing, timely weeding and pest control. |
| High input / irrigated | 2 | 1.5 | 2.5 | Reliable moisture, good fertility and strong pest and disease management. |
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Season calendars

| Country | Region | Planting | Harvest |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|

| | | | |
|----|--|---------|---------|
| KE | Semi-arid and coastal ndengu zones (short rains) | Oct–Nov | Jan–Feb |
| KE | Semi-arid and coastal ndengu zones (long rains) | Mar–Apr | Jun–Jul |
| TZ | Central and northern drier areas | Dec–Jan | Mar–Apr |
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Region suitability

| <u>Country</u> | <u>Region</u> | <u>Suitability</u> |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------------|
| KE | ASAL (arid and semi-arid lands) | High |
| KE | Eastern and coastal Green gram (ndengu) belt | High |
| KE | Very wet highland zones | Low |
| TZ | Central plateau and northern dry zones | High |
| UG | Drier mixed farming and cattle corridor areas | Medium |

Source: **FarmLens Ltd** - farmlens.africa and app.farmlens.africa. Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya. This guide was generated from the FarmLens database.