

Crop details

Categories

Chickpea (choroko)

Legumes & Pulses

Cicer arietinum

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Family: Fabaceae

Quick stats

Family	Fabaceae
Typical harvest	1.8 t/ha
Varieties	3
Pests and diseases	6
Seasons	3

Crop profile

Growth habit	annual
Days to harvest	110
Main uses	Dry grain for stews, boiled chickpeas and flour; also used as animal feed and for soil improvement.
Pollination	self
Origin and where it grows	Chickpea (choroko) is grown in cooler and drier highland and mid-altitude areas, often after cereals in rotation.

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	15 - 25 °C
Rainfall	400 - 700 mm/yr
Altitude	800 - 2300 m
Best pH	6.5 - 7.5
Soil type	Well-drained loam or sandy loam; Chickpea (choroko) does well on slightly calcareous and moderately fertile soils.
Row spacing	45 cm
Plant spacing	10 cm
Planting depth	5 cm
Seed rate	70 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 110 days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for dry grain for stews, boiled chickpeas and flour; also used as animal feed and for soil improvement..

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

Where it grows: Chickpea (choroko) is grown in cooler and drier highland and mid-altitude areas, often after cereals in rotation.. Grouped under: Legumes & Pulses.

Best climate: 15 - 25 °C; 400 - 700 mm/yr; up to about 2300 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 6.5 - 7.5; well-drained loam or sandy loam; chickpea (choroko) does well on slightly calcareous and moderately fertile soils..

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<u>Planting</u>	Plant Chickpea (choroko) at the start of the cool, dry season when soil has stored moisture. Place 2–3 seeds per hole, about a hand finger deep, and thin to one strong plant.
<u>Transplanting</u>	Choroko is direct seeded; no transplanting is needed.
<u>Irrigation</u>	Chickpea is drought tolerant and is often grown on residual moisture. Avoid heavy irrigation or long wet periods which increase disease.
<u>Fertigation</u>	Use a small amount of starter phosphorus and inoculate seed where chickpea has not been grown before. Extra nitrogen is usually not needed.
<u>Pest scouting</u>	Check fields weekly for pod borers, aphids and leaf diseases. Look at flowers and pods closely for any caterpillars or damage.
<u>Pruning and training</u>	No pruning required. Keep weeds low in the first month so Chickpea (choroko) can close the canopy.
<u>Harvest</u>	Harvest when most pods are yellow–brown and seeds are hard, before pods split and spill the grain.
<u>Postharvest</u>	Cut plants or pick pods, dry them on clean tarpaulins, then thresh. Dry Chickpea (choroko) grain until hard and store in dry, airtight bags.

Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

#	<u>Stage</u>	<u>DAP</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Targets (kg/ha)</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1	Basal at planting	0	TSP or NPK with higher P (e.g., 0-26-10)	80 kg/ha	N: 0, P ₂ O ₅ : 25, K ₂ O: 10	Band fertilizer a little away from the row; inoculate Chickpea (choroko) seed where needed.
2	Optional K topdress (early flowering)	40	Muriate of potash (MOP)	25 kg/ha	N: 0, P ₂ O ₅ : 0, K ₂ O: 15	Use where Chickpea (choroko) straw is often removed and soils test low in potassium.

Nutrient requirements

<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>
N	Basal	8	kg/ha
P ₂ O ₅	Basal	25	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Basal	15	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
P ₂ O ₅	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Topdress_early	15	kg/ha

Varieties

<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Maturity (days)</u>	<u>Traits</u>
Early kabuli chickpea	KE	100	Larger cream seeds, early maturing; suited to cool, drier areas.
Desi-type chickpea	TZ	110	Smaller brown seeds, good for split peas and flour.
Local choroko landrace	KE	115	Traditional taste and good adaptation; moderate yield.

Fertilizer recommendations

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Basal	TSP or NPK with P (e.g., 0-26-10)	80	Gives phosphorus for root growth and nodulation of Chickpea (choroko).
Topdress (optional K)	Muriate of potash (MOP)	25	Use in K-deficient fields, especially where crop residues are removed.

Pests and diseases

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Pod borer (Helicoverpa armigera)	pest	Holes in pods of Chickpea (choroko), webbing and chewed seeds inside.	Plant early, scout from flowering, and use recommended biopesticides or insecticides when first damage appears.
Aphids	pest	Clusters of small insects on young shoots and buds; curled leaves and sticky honeydew.	Encourage natural enemies; use selective sprays only when numbers are very high.
Cutworms	pest	Seedlings of Chickpea (choroko) cut at ground level, leaving gaps in the row.	Keep field weed-free before planting and replant missing spots quickly.
Ascochyta blight	disease	Dark spots and lesions on leaves, stems and pods; plants may dry prematurely.	Use clean seed, rotate with non-legumes and avoid overhead irrigation that wets foliage.
Fusarium wilt	disease	Chickpea (choroko) plants wilt and yellow; when stems are cut open, brown streaks appear inside.	Rotate fields, avoid planting in heavily infested areas and use tolerant varieties where available.
Storage beetles and bruchids	pest	Holes in stored Chickpea (choroko) grain and powdery dust in bags.	Dry grain thoroughly and store in airtight or treated bags; clean stores between seasons.

Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Smallholder rainfed (low input)	0.9	0.6	1.2	Local choroko types, little fertilizer, basic weeding and limited pest control.
Smallholder rainfed (improved management)	1.8	1.2	2.5	Improved Chickpea (choroko) varieties, good seedbed, starter P and timely pest and disease management.
High input / irrigated or well-managed residual moisture	2.8	2	3.5	Good soil fertility, disease control and careful use of supplementary irrigation where needed.

Season calendars

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
KE	Cool highland and upper mid-altitude zones (after main rains)	Jun–Jul	Oct–Nov
KE	Highland short-rains season	Oct–Nov	Feb–Mar
TZ	Southern highlands and cooler plateaus	May–Jun	Sep–Oct

Region suitability

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Cool highland and upper mid-altitude cropping zones	High
KE	Very hot, low, humid coastal belt	Low
TZ	Southern highlands and cooler plateaus	High
UG	Highland and cooler mid-altitude areas	Medium

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