

# FarmLens Ltd

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Crop details

## Broad bean (fava)

*Vicia faba*

Family: Fabaceae

Categories

Legumes & Pulses

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### Quick stats

<b>Family</b>	Fabaceae
<b>Typical harvest</b>	2.4 t/ha
<b>Varieties</b>	3
<b>Pests and diseases</b>	6
<b>Seasons</b>	3

### Crop profile

<b>Growth habit</b>	annual
<b>Days to harvest</b>	120
<b>Main uses</b>	Fresh green beans, dry beans for stews and soups, fodder and green manure.
<b>Pollination</b>	self
<b>Origin and where it grows</b>	Broad bean (fava) is grown mainly in cooler highland and upper mid-altitude areas, often as a cool-season pulse in rotation with cereals.

### Weather, soil and spacing

<b>Best temperature</b>	12 - 22 °C
<b>Rainfall</b>	500 - 800 mm/yr
<b>Altitude</b>	1000 - 2600 m
<b>Best pH</b>	6.5 - 7.5
<b>Soil type</b>	Deep, medium to heavy loam with good structure. Broad bean (fava) prefers cool, fertile, well-drained soils.
<b>Row spacing</b>	60 cm
<b>Plant spacing</b>	10 cm
<b>Planting depth</b>	5 cm
<b>Seed rate</b>	150 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 120 days after planting.

**Main use:** Farmers mostly grow this crop for fresh green beans, dry beans for stews and soups, fodder and green manure..

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

**Where it grows:** Broad bean (fava) is grown mainly in cooler highland and upper mid-altitude areas, often as a cool-season pulse in rotation with cereals.. Grouped under: Legumes & Pulses.

**Best climate:** 12 - 22 °C; 500 - 800 mm/yr; up to about 2600 m a.s.l.

**Soil:** Best at pH 6.5 - 7.5; deep, medium to heavy loam with good structure. broad bean (fava) prefers cool, fertile, well-drained soils..

### Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<b><u>Planting</u></b>	Plant Broad bean (fava) at the start of the cool, rainy season. Place 1–2 large seeds per hole, a full finger deep, and cover well.
<b><u>Transplanting</u></b>	Direct seeded; normally not transplanted because of its large, delicate root.
<b><u>Irrigation</u></b>	Keep soil moist during germination, branching and flowering. Avoid long dry spells at flowering and pod filling.
<b><u>Fertigation</u></b>	As a legume, Broad bean (fava) fixes nitrogen. Give a good seedbed and a small starter dose of phosphorus and potassium.
<b><u>Pest scouting</u></b>	Check fields weekly for aphids, leaf spots, chocolate spot and rust. Look carefully at young shoot tips, stems and pods.
<b><u>Pruning and training</u></b>	No pruning needed; in windy areas light staking or planting in double rows can reduce lodging.
<b><u>Harvest</u></b>	For fresh green beans, pick when seeds are well filled but still soft. For dry grain, harvest when pods are dry and seeds are hard, before pods shatter.
<b><u>Postharvest</u></b>	Dry plants or pods on clean sheets, thresh gently, then dry grain again until hard. Store in dry, airtight or treated bags to prevent beetle damage.

### Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

#	<u>Stage</u>	<u>DAP</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Targets</u> <u>(kg/ha)</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1	Basal at planting	0	NPK with P (e.g., 10-24-20) or TSP + K source	80 kg/ha	N: 8, P?O?: 30, K?O: 30	Place fertilizer in bands beside the row, not touching the seed.
2	Optional K topdress (early flowering)	40	Muriate of potash (MOP) or K-rich NPK	40 kg/ha	N: 0, P?O?: 0, K?O: 20	Apply when Broad bean (fava) is starting to flower, especially on K-deficient soils.

### Nutrient requirements

<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>
N	Basal	15	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	30	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_early	20	kg/ha

## Field images



## Varieties

<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Maturity (days)</u>	<u>Traits</u>
Early broad bean	KE	100	Early maturing, suitable for highland vegetable and grain use.
Medium fava type	TZ	120	Good grain size, suited to cool upper mid-altitude areas.
Local broad bean landrace	KE	130	Traditional taste and adaptation; moderate yield.

## Fertilizer recommendations

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Basal	NPK with P (e.g., 10-24-20) or TSP + K source	80	Provides phosphorus and potassium to support rooting and early growth in Broad bean (fava).
Topdress (optional K)	Muriate of potash (MOP) or K-rich NPK	40	Used where soils are low in potassium or residues are removed frequently.

## Pests and diseases

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Black bean aphid	pest	Crowds of black aphids on Broad bean (fava) shoot tips and stems; curled leaves and sticky honeydew.	Pinch heavily infested tips, encourage natural enemies and spray only when infestations are severe.
Pod borers	pest	Holes in pods, webbing and eaten seeds.	Scout at flowering and early podding and treat early when fresh damage is seen.
Chocolate spot (Botrytis)	disease	Small dark spots on leaves, stems and pods that may enlarge and merge, causing blighting.	Avoid very dense stands, improve air flow and use fungicides when disease pressure is high.
Rust	disease	Orange-brown powdery spots on leaves and stems of Broad bean (fava).	Use tolerant varieties, avoid overhead irrigation and remove heavily infected residues.
Root rots in poorly drained soils	disease	Stunted, yellow plants; roots dark or rotten, especially in wet patches.	Improve drainage, avoid over-irrigation and rotate with non-legume crops.
Storage beetles and weevils	pest	Holes and powder in stored Broad bean (fava) grain.	Dry grain well and store in airtight or treated bags; keep stores clean.

## Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Smallholder rainfed (low input)	1.2	0.8	1.8	Local seed, little fertilizer, basic weed control.
Smallholder rainfed (improved management)	2.5	1.8	3	Improved varieties, starter fertilizer, timely weeding and disease control.
High input / irrigated	3.5	2.8	4	Fertile soils, reliable moisture and well-managed pests and diseases.

### Season calendars

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
KE	Cool highland zones (main rainy season)	Mar–Apr	Jul–Sep
KE	Highland short-rains season	Oct–Nov	Feb–Mar
TZ	Southern and northern highlands	May–Jun	Sep–Oct

### Region suitability

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Cool highlands and upper mid-altitude zones	High
KE	Hot, lowland semi-arid areas	Low
TZ	Southern and northern highland belts	High
UG	Highland and cool mid-altitude areas	High

Source: **FarmLens Ltd** - [farmlens.africa](http://farmlens.africa) and [app.farmlens.africa](http://app.farmlens.africa). Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya. This guide was generated from the FarmLens database.