FarmLens Ltd

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

Crop details

Lima bean

Phaseolus lunatus

Family: Fabaceae

Categories

Legumes & Pulses

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Quick stats

Family	Fabaceae
Typical harvest	1.5 t/ha
Varieties	3
Pests and diseases	5
Seasons	3

Crop profile

Growth habit	annual
Days to harvest	90-140
Main uses	Pulse; fresh/dry
Pollination	self
Origin and where it grows	Americas; tropics/subtropics

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	20 - 28 °C
Rainfall	700 - 1200 mm/yr
Altitude	0 - 1800 m
Best pH	6 - 7
Soil type	Well-drained loam
Row spacing	60 cm
Plant spacing	30 cm
Planting depth	3 cm
Seed rate	40 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 90-140 days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for pulse; fresh/dry.

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

Where it grows: Americas; tropics/subtropics. Grouped under: Legumes & Pulses.

Best climate: 20 - 28 °C; 700 - 1200 mm/yr; up to about 1800 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 6 - 7; well-drained loam.

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

Planting	Sow after onset of rains in warm soil; inoculate with Rhizobium if available; stake climbing types.
Transplanting	Generally not transplanted.
Irrigation	Maintain moisture at flowering/pod fill; avoid prolonged wet soils.
Fertigation	Low N needed due to fixation; supply P and K; micronutrients as needed.
Pest scouting	Scout for bean fly, aphids, pod borers, anthracnose; rotate chemistries.
Pruning and training	Stake/twine for pole types to reduce disease and ease harvest.
Harvest	Pick green pods regularly or dry seeds at full maturity; avoid shattering.
Postharvest	Dry seeds to ?12% moisture; store cool & dry; control bruchids.

Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Basal	0	NPK 17-17-17	60 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: 20, K?O: 20	If using DAP, reduce additional N later
2	Topdress (veg)	25	CAN 26% N (optional)	40 kg/ha	N: 10, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Only if plants pale or poor nodulation

Nutrient requirements

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
P?O?	Basal	25	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	20	kg/ha
N	Topdress	10	kg/ha
K?O	Flowering	20	kg/ha

Field images

Varieties

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits
Local Lima	KE	110	Pole type
Local Lima (bush)	KE	110	Bush type; uniform pods

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits
Pole Lima	KE	130	Climbing; extended harvest

Fertilizer recommendations

Stage	Product	Rate	Notes
Basal	NPK 17-17-17	60	
Basal	DAP 18-46-0	60	Band away from seed
Topdress (opt.)	CAN 26% N	40	Use based on leaf color/soil tests

Pests and diseases

Name	Type	Symptoms	Management
Bean fly	pest	Stem swelling	Seed dressing; early planting
Aphids	pest	Leaf curl; honeydew/sooty mold	Conserve beneficials; spot sprays; control ants
Pod borer	pest	Bored pods/seeds	Timely picking; pheromone/light traps; selective insecticides
Anthracnose	disease	Dark lesions on pods/leaves	Clean seed; rotation; resistant varieties
Angular leaf spot	disease	Angular lesions on leaves	Sanitation; copper/protectants; airflow

Yields

System	Typical	Min	Max	Notes
rainfed	1.2	0.5	2	
rainfed smallholder	1.2	0.5	2	
irrigated/managed	2	1.2	3	Good fertility & pest control

Season calendars

Country	Region	Planting	Harvest
KE	Eastern	Oct–Nov	Jan–Mar
KE	Western	Mar–Apr	Jun–Aug
UG	Central	Mar–Apr	Jun–Jul

Region suitability

Country	Region	Suitability
KE	Eastern	Medium
KE	Western	High
UG	Central	High

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