

FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

Lima bean

Phaseolus lunatus

Family: Fabaceae

Categories

Legumes & Pulses

Generated: 2026-03-14 14:29

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 green or dry seed
Pollination	self
Origin and where it grows	Americas; grown in tropics/subtropics incl. East Africa

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/sandy 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 green or dry seed.

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

Where it grows: Americas; grown in tropics/subtropics incl. East Africa. 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/sandy loam.

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<u>Planting</u>	Sow after onset of rains in warm soil; inoculate with Rhizobium if available; stake climbing types.
<u>Transplanting</u>	Generally not transplanted.
<u>Irrigation</u>	Maintain moisture at flowering/pod fill; avoid prolonged wet soils.
<u>Fertigation</u>	Low N needed due to fixation; supply P and K; micronutrients as needed.
<u>Pest scouting</u>	Scout for bean fly, aphids, pod borers, anthracnose; rotate chemistries.
<u>Pruning and training</u>	Stake/twine for pole types to reduce disease and ease harvest.
<u>Harvest</u>	Pick green pods regularly or dry seeds at full maturity; avoid shattering.
<u>Postharvest</u>	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 (light) or DAP 18-46-0 (alt)	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

<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>
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

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Maturity (days)</u>	<u>Traits</u>
Pole Lima	KE	130	Climbing; extended harvest

Fertilizer recommendations

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Notes</u>
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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Bean fly	pest	Swollen stems; wilting seedlings	Seed dressing; early planting; ridge soil around stems
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

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
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

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

Region suitability

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
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.