

# FarmLens Ltd

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Crop details

## Lablab (hyacinth bean)

*Lablab purpureus*

Family: Fabaceae

Categories

Legumes & Pulses

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### Quick stats

<b>Family</b>	Fabaceae
<b>Typical harvest</b>	2.1 t/ha
<b>Varieties</b>	3
<b>Pests and diseases</b>	6
<b>Seasons</b>	6

### Crop profile

<b>Growth habit</b>	climber
<b>Days to harvest</b>	90–150
<b>Main uses</b>	Pulse (dry seed); vegetable (green pods); forage/cover crop; green manure
<b>Pollination</b>	insect
<b>Origin and where it grows</b>	Africa/Asia tropics; widely grown in East Africa (food & forage)

### Weather, soil and spacing

<b>Best temperature</b>	20 - 30 °C
<b>Rainfall</b>	600 - 900 mm/yr
<b>Altitude</b>	0 - 1800 m
<b>Best pH</b>	6 - 7
<b>Soil type</b>	Well-drained loam/sandy loam; moderate fertility
<b>Row spacing</b>	75 cm
<b>Plant spacing</b>	45 cm
<b>Planting depth</b>	3 cm
<b>Seed rate</b>	25 kg/ha

### Simple notes for farmers

**About the crop:** This crop has a growth habit described as "climber". Harvest typically starts about 90–150 days after planting.

**Main use:** Farmers mostly grow this crop for pulse (dry seed); vegetable (green pods); forage/cover crop; green manure.

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

**Where it grows:** Africa/Asia tropics; widely grown in East Africa (food & forage). Grouped under: Legumes & Pulses.

**Best climate:** 20 - 30 °C; 600 - 900 mm/yr; up to about 1800 m a.s.l.

**Soil:** Best at pH 6 - 7; well-drained loam/sandy loam; moderate fertility.

### Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<b><u>Planting</u></b>	Direct-seed at onset of rains on a fine seedbed. Provide stakes/trellis for vining types. Keep weed-free for first 4–6 weeks.
<b><u>Transplanting</u></b>	Transplant uncommon; if used, handle taproot gently.
<b><u>Irrigation</u></b>	Irrigate for establishment and during flowering/pod fill in dry spells.
<b><u>Fertigation</u></b>	Low N demand (N-fixing). If fertigating, use small N doses and adequate K.
<b><u>Pest scouting</u></b>	Scout for pod borers, aphids, beetles, and foliar diseases; remove infested pods and maintain hygiene.
<b><u>Pruning and training</u></b>	Train vines on stakes/trellis; light tip-pinching can encourage branching.
<b><u>Harvest</u></b>	Pick green pods tender for vegetable use; for dry seed, harvest when pods turn brown and rattle.
<b><u>Postharvest</u></b>	Dry seed to ~12% moisture; store cool and dry. For forage, cut at early flowering.

### **Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)**

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Basal	0	NPK 17-17-17 (light)	60 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K? O: N/A	Or DAP 18-46-0 @ 50–60 kg/ha; inoculate seed where possible
2	Topdress (opt.)	25	CAN 26% N (light)	30 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K? O: N/A	Only if leaves pale and nodules absent/weak
3	K boost (opt.)	40	MOP (KCl)	30 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K? O: N/A	For intensive vegetable/forage use

### **Nutrient requirements**

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
P?O?	Basal	25	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	20	kg/ha
N	Topdress	15	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 Lablab	KE	120	Dual purpose
Rongai (forage type)	KE	120	Vigorous vine; high biomass; forage/cover
Local lablab (grain)	KE	110	Dual-purpose; edible dry seed

### Fertilizer recommendations

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Basal	NPK 17-17-17	60	At sowing; band or broadcast
Topdress	CAN 26% N (optional)	30	Only if poor nodulation
Flowering	MOP (KCl) (optional)	30	Support pod/leaf production

### Pests and diseases

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Pod borer	pest	Bored pods	Timely picking; IPM
Pod borer (Maruca spp.)	pest	Bored pods; webbing; seed damage	Timely picking; sanitation; rotate actives if spraying
Aphids	pest	Curling; honeydew/sooty mold	Encourage natural enemies; soft sprays; control ants
Beetles/defoliators	pest	Leaf holes; defoliation	Scouting; spot treatments; hand-pick small outbreaks
Anthracnose/leaf spots	disease	Spots/lesions on leaves & pods	Rotation; airflow; protectants if severe
Powdery mildew	disease	White powdery growth on leaves	Spacing; sulfur or labeled fungicides

### Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
rainfed	1.2	0.6	2	
rainfed grain (dry seed)	1.2	0.6	2	Varies with support/management
forage biomass (dry matter)	4	2.5	6	Cut at early flowering

### Season calendars

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
KE	Western	Mar–Apr	Jul–Oct
KE	Western & mid-altitudes (long rains)	Mar–Apr	Jul–Oct
KE	Western & mid-altitudes (short rains)	Oct–Nov	Feb–Apr
UG	Central/Eastern (1st season)	Mar–Apr	Jul–Sep
UG	Central/Eastern (2nd season)	Aug–Sep	Dec–Feb

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
TZ	Northern unimodal	Nov–Dec	Mar–May

### **Region suitability**

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Arid/semi-arid w/out irrigation	Low
KE	Poorly drained wetlands	Low
KE	Western	High
KE	Western; Nyanza; mid-altitude humid	High
TZ	Northern & Lake zones	High
UG	Central & Eastern sub-humid	High

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