KVU 27-1 (Cowpeas)

Climatic requirements
- A dual-purpose variety suitable for both grain and leaf production with a semi-spreading habit and indeterminate flowering pattern.
- Leaves are lanceolate with a distinctive silvery midrib and have purple blue flowers
- The main difference between K80 and KVU 27-1 is in the grain color
- Grains are dark red in colour
- Potential yields range from 800-1800 kg/ha or 320-720 kg/acre
- Moderately tolerant to aphids and thrips, pod borers, leaf hoppers and is moderately resistant to foliar fungal disease and mosaic virus.

Recommended zones
KVU 27-1 is recommended for medium and higher altitudes of between 1200-1500 above sea level in agro-ecological zone III and IV.

Management/Breeding Practices

Land preparation
The field should be well prepared without big soil clods and have a fine tilth. Hand, oxen plough, tractor can be used for ploughing.

Time of planting: Early planting is recommended but not before 30mm of rainfall is received. Spatial planting is also recommended.

Seed rate: 20-25kg/ha (8-10kg per acre)

Number of plant/hill: Sow 3-4 seeds/hill and thin 2 weeks after emergence to one seedling per hole.

Depth of planting: Seed should be placed between 4-5cm deep and covered properly.

Spacing:
- Machakos 66, Katumani 80 and KVU 27-1: The distance between rows is 60cm and between plants 20cm.
- KVU 419: The distance between rows is 50cm and between plants 20cm.
- Intercrop: Maize: 150cm X 30 cm, 2 rows, 120cm X 30cm, 1 row Sorghum: 150cm X 15cm, 2 rows

Fertilizer
Cowpeas require nitrogen and phosphate fertilizer application. However, where the soils are highly eroded and very deficient in these nutrients, a basal dose of 10-15kg/ha of nitrogen and 20-25kg/ha of single or triple super phosphate fertilizers may be broadcasted. Cowpeas not pod if a lot of nitrogen is applied and remains very leafy.

Weeding
The first weeding should be done two weeks after emergence and the second one must be done before flowering.

Crop Protection

Insect pests:
- Before flowering aphids, thrips, leafhoppers
- After flowering - aphids, pod borers, pod sucking bug, apion beetle

During storage - Bruchids.

Chemical control
- Aphids: Thiodan, Duduthrin, Karate or Sherpa plus
- Thrips: Sherpa plus, Karate, and Duduthrin
- Leafhoppers: Thiodan
- Pod borers: Thiodan, Sherpa plus, Decis, Thiodan
- Pod sucking bugs: Dimethoate, Sherpa plus, and Karate
- Apion beetle: Super Actellic

Harvesting and storage
Time of harvesting - harvest when all the pods have turned brown and are dropping. Weevils are major storage pests.
To store, dust the grain with super actellic (50g per bag) or with neem tree leaves or treat with wood-ash (4-6 kg of ash per bag). The grains should be well dried before being stored.