20-25kg/ha (8-10kg per acre) and 3-4 seeds/hill
Seedlings are thinned to one after 2 weeks.

**Depth of planting:**
Seed should be planted 4-5cm deep and covered.

**Spacing:**
60cm between rows and 20 cm between plants.

**Weeding**
First weeding should be done two weeks after emergence and second one should be before flowering.

**Fertilizer**
Single or triple super phosphate fertilizers should be applied at a rate of 20-25kg per hectare.

**Crop Protection**
**Insect pests:**
- Pre-flowering: Aphids, thrips, leafhoppers
- Post flowering: Aphids, pod borers, pod sucking bug, apion beetle
- During storage: Bruchids and weevils

Various insecticides may be used to control these pests. Spray should be at flower bud formation, flowering stage and at pod formation.

**Harvesting and storage**
Pods should be harvested when all have turned brown and are drooping.

After threshing, grains should be dried well before storage.

To protect grain against storage pests, super actellic dust should be applied at 50g per bag. Neem leaves or wood-ash at 4-6 kg of ash per bag may also be used.
Introduction

Cow peas are leguminous crops that can be used to provide green leaves for vegetables as well as grain for food. They tolerate drought and play a significant role in food security.

Varieties and their characteristics

Cow pea varieties for arid and semi-arid areas are M66, K80 and KVU27-1.

1. Machakos 66 (M66)

M66 is a bushy semi-spreading variety grown for both leaves and grain.
- The leaves and midribs are dark green and flowers are purple with a white corolla.
- The pods are green when young, turn bright red during grain filling and brown purple when dry.
- It takes 55-60 days to flower and matures in 80-90 days while yields range from 800-1700 kg/ha or 320-680 kg/acre.
- The variety is tolerant to yellow mottle virus and scab, and partly to aphid and thrips damage.

2. Katumani 80 (K80)

K80 is a dual-purpose variety, suitable for both grain and leaf production.
- It has a semi-spreading habit
- It has elongated leaves with a distinctive silvery midrib
- The flowers are purple blue and the corollas are pigmented ivory white
- Immature pods are green and turn white brown with interspersed faint red brown spots at maturity
- Potential yields range from 800-1800 kg/ha or 320-720 kg/acre
- It is resistant to aphids, moderately tolerant to thrips, pod borers and leafhopper
- Moderately tolerant to foliar fungal diseases and mosaic virus.

3. KVU 27-1

A dual-purpose variety suitable for both grain and leaf production with a semi-spreading habit and indeterminate flowering pattern.
- Leaves are pointed
- Flowers are purple blue in colour
- 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.

Crop Management

Land preparation

This is by hand, ox plough or tractor.

Time of planting:

Early planting after 30mm of rainfall is received

Seed rate: