

Improved Green Gram Production

Varieties

The local green gram variety

- Has small seeds.
- Plants mature at different times.
- Matures late.
- Has a lot of stony seeds, which makes green gram meal difficult to eat.

The improved variety K26

- Has large seeds.
- Gives high yields and plants ripen at the same time.
- Matures early.
- Does well in dry areas.



LAND PREPARATION AND PLANTING

Prepare land early enough so that planting can start when the rains begin. Green gram can be planted alone or intercropped with other crops like maize. When planted alone, sow it 1 1/2 ft between rows and 1/2 ft between plants. One acre of land will require 2 to 4 gorogoros (4 to 8 kg) of seed for planting.

WEEDING

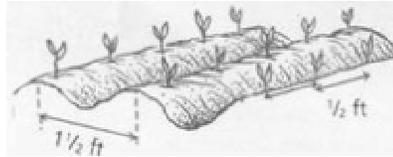
The first weeding should be done 3 weeks after the seeds have emerged followed by the second weeding 6 weeks later.

FERTILIZERS

If the soils are poor, you can apply up to 12 gorogoros or 1/2 bag of DAP per acre.

PESTS

Insect pests that attack green grams are bean aphids, bean fly and bruchid weevils.



PESTS DAMAGE & CONTROL SYMPTOMS

Bean Aphid Insects feed - Plant early on leaves and - Spray with Karate pods, causing the plant to stay short.

Bean Fly Plants that have - Use certified seed been attacked are - Practise crop rotation yellow and may wilt.- Spray with Benomyl or copper oxychloride

DISEASES

The main disease that affects green gram is powdery mildew. You can detect it when you see whitish growth under the leaves.

Control

- Use certified seed
- Practise crop rotation
- Spray crop with Benomyl or copper oxychloride

HARVESTING

Harvest green gram when most of the pods have turned black. You can pick and dry individual pods or uproot the whole plant and dry it for about 2 days, then thresh and clean it.

STORAGE

You must dry green grams well before storing because bruchid weevils attack the stored grain. It is best to store the grain in covered tins, drums, pots or sealed containers. If you store it in bags, add the ash of neem leaves or buy super actellic and add 2 matchboxes full (50 g) to one 90 kg bag of green grams for protection against the bruchid. Mix the actellic or ash well with green grams before storage.

PESTS	DAMAGE & SYMPTOMS	CONTROL
Bean Aphid	Insects feed on leaves and pods, causing the plant to stay short.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Plant early- Spray with Karate
Bean Fly	Plants that have been attacked are yellow and may wilt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Use certified seed- Practise crop rotation- Spray with Benomyl or copper oxychloride

YIELDS

Average yields range from 1 to 2 bags (90 -180 kg) per acre. If you follow the above steps you can get up to 4 bags (360 kg) per acre. The stover is good livestock feed. You can get a return of 5 times your investment if you follow the steps in this leaflet.

WHERE TO GET THE SEED

Seed can be obtained from Kenya Seed Company, KARI Katumani RO Box 340 Machakos, KARI Kitale RO Box 450 Kitale or contact your extension officer

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More info. from

KARI Headquarters Library

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