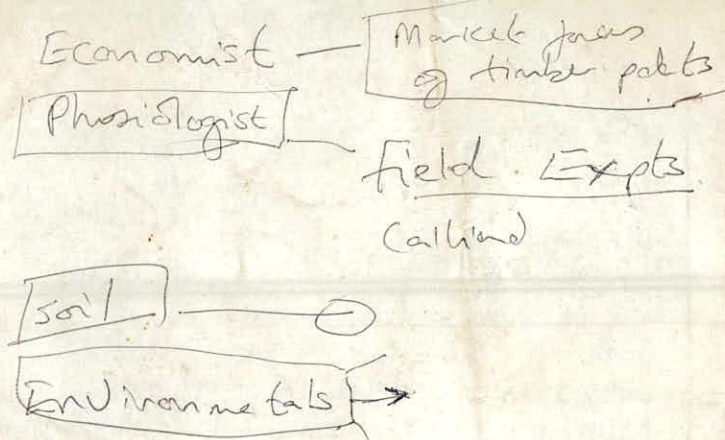


Pests

The major pests attacking pigeon pea include the Pod borers e.g. Aphids, **Helicoverpa armigera** and **Maruca testulalis**, Flower beetles, Trips, Aphids and Pod sucking bugs.

Diseases:

Fusarium wilt, phytophthora blight, Powdery mildew and Leaf spot are important. It may not be economic to control these diseases on a subsistence crop. Seed dressing with Thiram or Fernasan D, crop rotation, and timely planting may reduce disease incidence.



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PIGEON PEA

GROWERS' GUIDE

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Introduction

Pigeon pea can grow throughout Uganda but is mainly grown in Northern and Eastern Uganda. It provides a cheap source of plant protein to the rural poor and is consumed as a split pea or whole grain and sometimes as green pods. Pigeon pea can be a good source of forage for livestock and has a potential as a poultry feed. Its stems provide wood fuel. Pigeon pea also improves soil by nitrogen fixation.

Varieties

Long and medium duration local types are being grown. Shorter duration types are still being developed.

Land Preparation

Pigeon pea requires a well prepared seedbed which drains well.

Seed Rate

For a row cropped pure stand, 25 kg/ha required for long and medium duration; and 40 kg/ha for short duration.

Planting

Use uniform coloured, non-perforated seed preferably from the previous season dressed with Fernasan D or Thiram. Mostly planted as an annual crop in the first rains. Medium and long duration varieties are often inter-cropped with cereals, cassava, groundnuts and beans while short duration types are recommended for monocropping. If row cropped, for long duration varieties the spacing is 75 cm between rows and 40-45 cm between plants; while the medium duration is 75 cm between rows and 20-25 cm between plants, and for short duration types 30-40 cm between rows and 10 cm between plants.

Weeding

Weed at 3-4 weeks after planting and thin to one plant per hole, then weed again before the canopy forms for monocrop.

Control is by use of Fenitrothion 50% e.c., Salut and Decis. Spraying is recommended just before flowering and during podding.

Maturity

Pigeon pea matures unevenly; the long duration types taking 180-300 days, medium duration 150-180 days while the short duration take 90-150 days.

Yields

Yields of pigeon pea are variable. Local varieties yield as low as 400-500 kg/ha. Improved lines under good management can yield up to 2500 kg/ha. Improved cultivars of shorter maturity periods have promising higher yields than the locals.

Harvesting and Drying

Harvest only the dry pods and sun dry thoroughly before storage. Well dried pods are easy to thresh before storage. For short duration types whole stems are cut and dried properly before threshing.

Storage

Dress the threshed seed with Actellic 2% powder and store in rodent-proof structures. This will minimize damage by bruchid beetles (*Collos bruchus* spp) and rodents respectively.