

FarmLens Ltd

Website: farmlens.africa | App: app.farmlens.africa | Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya



Crop details

Chickpea

Cicer arietinum

Family: Fabaceae

Categories

Legumes & Pulses

Generated: 2026-04-11 08:15

Quick stats

| | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Family | Fabaceae |
| Typical harvest | 1.8 t/ha |
| Varieties | 48 |
| Pests and diseases | 96 |
| Seasons | 48 |

Crop profile

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Growth habit | annual |
| Days to harvest | 110 |
| Main uses | Dry grain for stews, boiled chickpeas and flour; also used as animal feed and for soil improvement. |
| Pollination | self |
| Origin and where it grows | Chickpea (choroko) is grown in cooler and drier highland and mid-altitude areas, often after cereals in rotation. |

Weather, soil and spacing

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Best temperature | 18 - 24 °C |
| Rainfall | 300 - 600 mm/yr |
| Altitude | 200 - 2200 m |
| Best pH | 6.5 - 7.5 |
| Soil type | Well-drained loam or sandy loam; Chickpea (choroko) does well on slightly calcareous and moderately fertile soils. |
| Row spacing | 45 cm |
| Plant spacing | 10 cm |
| Planting depth | 5 cm |
| Seed rate | 70 kg/ha |

Simple notes for farmers

About the crop: This crop is annual; it grows and is harvested in one season. Harvest typically starts about 110 days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for dry grain for stews, boiled chickpeas and flour; also used as animal feed and for soil improvement..

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

Where it grows: Chickpea (choroko) is grown in cooler and drier highland and mid-altitude areas, often after cereals in rotation..
Grouped under: Legumes & Pulses.

Best climate: 18 - 24 °C; 300 - 600 mm/yr; up to about 2200 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 6.5 - 7.5; well-drained loam or sandy loam; chickpea (choroko) does well on slightly calcareous and moderately fertile soils..

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <u>Planting</u> | Plant Chickpea (choroko) at the start of the cool, dry season when soil has stored moisture. Place 2–3 seeds per hole, about a hand finger deep, and thin to one strong plant. |
| <u>Transplanting</u> | Choroko is direct seeded; no transplanting is needed. |
| <u>Irrigation</u> | Chickpea is drought tolerant and is often grown on residual moisture. Avoid heavy irrigation or long wet periods which increase disease. |
| <u>Fertigation</u> | Use a small amount of starter phosphorus and inoculate seed where chickpea has not been grown before. Extra nitrogen is usually not needed. |
| <u>Pest scouting</u> | Check fields weekly for pod borers, aphids and leaf diseases. Look at flowers and pods closely for any caterpillars or damage. |
| <u>Pruning and training</u> | No pruning required. Keep weeds low in the first month so Chickpea (choroko) can close the canopy. |
| <u>Harvest</u> | Harvest when most pods are yellow–brown and seeds are hard, before pods split and spill the grain. |
| <u>Postharvest</u> | Cut plants or pick pods, dry them on clean tarpaulins, then thresh. Dry Chickpea (choroko) grain until hard and store in dry, airtight bags. |

Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

| # | <u>Stage</u> | <u>DAP</u> | <u>Product</u> | <u>Rate</u> | <u>Targets</u> (kg/ha) | <u>Notes</u> |
|---|-------------------|------------|--|-------------|---------------------------|---|
| 1 | Basal at planting | 0 | TSP or NPK with higher P (e.g., 0-26-10) | 80 kg/ha | N: 0, P?O?: 25, K?O: 10 | Band fertilizer a little away from the row; inoculate Chickpea (choroko) seed where needed. |
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| 2 | Optional K topdress (early flowering) | 40 | Muriate of potash (MOP) | 25 kg/ha | N: 0, P?O?: 0, K?O: 15 | Use where Chickpea (choroko) straw is often removed and soils test low in potassium. |
| 2 | Optional K topdress (early flowering) | 40 | Muriate of potash (MOP) | 25 kg/ha | N: 0, P?O?: 0, K?O: 15 | Use where Chickpea (choroko) straw is often removed and soils test low in potassium. |
| 2 | Optional K topdress (early flowering) | 40 | Muriate of potash (MOP) | 25 kg/ha | N: 0, P?O?: 0, K?O: 15 | Use where Chickpea (choroko) straw is often removed and soils test low in potassium. |

| <u>Nutrient</u> | <u>Stage</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Unit</u> |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| N | Basal | 8 | kg/ha |
| P?O? | Basal | 25 | kg/ha |
| K?O | Basal | 15 | kg/ha |
| N | Topdress_early | 0 | kg/ha |
| P?O? | Topdress_early | 0 | kg/ha |
| K?O | Topdress_early | 15 | kg/ha |
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Field images



Varieties

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Country</u> | <u>Maturity (days)</u> | <u>Traits</u> |
|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|--|
| Early kabuli chickpea | KE | 100 | Larger cream seeds, early maturing; suited to cool, drier areas. |
| Desi-type chickpea | TZ | 110 | Smaller brown seeds, good for split peas and flour. |
| Local choroko landrace | KE | 115 | Traditional taste and good adaptation; moderate yield. |
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| Topdress (optional K) | Muriate of potash (MOP) | 25 | Use in K-deficient fields, especially where crop residues are removed. |
| Basal | TSP or NPK with P (e.g., 0-26-10) | 80 | Gives phosphorus for root growth and nodulation of Chickpea (choroko). |
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Pests and diseases

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Type</u> | <u>Symptoms</u> | <u>Management</u> |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|

| | | | |
|--|---------|--|---|
| Pod borer (<i>Helicoverpa armigera</i>) | pest | Holes in pods of Chickpea (choroko), webbing and chewed seeds inside. | Plant early, scout from flowering, and use recommended biopesticides or insecticides when first damage appears. |
| Aphids | pest | Clusters of small insects on young shoots and buds; curled leaves and sticky honeydew. | Encourage natural enemies; use selective sprays only when numbers are very high. |
| Cutworms | pest | Seedlings of Chickpea (choroko) cut at ground level, leaving gaps in the row. | Keep field weed-free before planting and replant missing spots quickly. |
| Ascochyta blight | disease | Dark spots and lesions on leaves, stems and pods; plants may dry prematurely. | Use clean seed, rotate with non-legumes and avoid overhead irrigation that wets foliage. |
| Fusarium wilt | disease | Chickpea (choroko) plants wilt and yellow; when stems are cut open, brown streaks appear inside. | Rotate fields, avoid planting in heavily infested areas and use tolerant varieties where available. |
| Storage beetles and bruchids | pest | Holes in stored Chickpea (choroko) grain and powdery dust in bags. | Dry grain thoroughly and store in airtight or treated bags; clean stores between seasons. |
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| Fusarium wilt | disease | Chickpea (choroko) plants wilt and yellow; when stems are cut open, brown streaks appear inside. | Rotate fields, avoid planting in heavily infested areas and use tolerant varieties where available. |
| Storage beetles and bruchids | pest | Holes in stored Chickpea (choroko) grain and powdery dust in bags. | Dry grain thoroughly and store in airtight or treated bags; clean stores between seasons. |
| Pod borer (Helicoverpa armigera) | pest | Holes in pods of Chickpea (choroko), webbing and chewed seeds inside. | Plant early, scout from flowering, and use recommended biopesticides or insecticides when first damage appears. |
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Yields

| <u>System</u> | <u>Typical</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>Max</u> | <u>Notes</u> |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| Smallholder rainfed (low input) | 0.9 | 0.6 | 1.2 | Local choroko types, little fertilizer, basic weeding and limited pest control. |
| Smallholder rainfed (improved management) | 1.8 | 1.2 | 2.5 | Improved Chickpea (choroko) varieties, good seedbed, starter P and timely pest and disease management. |
| High input / irrigated or well-managed residual moisture | 2.8 | 2 | 3.5 | Good soil fertility, disease control and careful use of supplementary irrigation where needed. |
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Season calendars

| <u>Country</u> | <u>Region</u> | <u>Planting</u> | <u>Harvest</u> |
|----------------|---|-----------------|----------------|
| KE | Cool highland and upper mid-altitude zones (after main rains) | Jun–Jul | Oct–Nov |
| KE | Highland short-rains season | Oct–Nov | Feb–Mar |
| TZ | Southern highlands and cooler plateaus | May–Jun | Sep–Oct |
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Region suitability

| <u>Country</u> | <u>Region</u> | <u>Suitability</u> |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------------|
| KE | Cool highland and upper mid-altitude cropping zones | High |

| <u>Country</u> | <u>Region</u> | <u>Suitability</u> |
|----------------|--|--------------------|
| KE | Very hot, low, humid coastal belt | Low |
| TZ | Southern highlands and cooler plateaus | High |
| UG | Highland and cooler mid-altitude areas | Medium |

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