

COWPEA

The Cowpea, *Vigna unguiculata* is one of the most important legume crop in semi-arid tropics. The seeds are good source of proteins and vitamins for human and food for animals. The immature pods and young leaves of cowpea are eaten as vegetables.

Cowpea plant grows best in dry climate. It can be grown throughout the year and does not require too much nitrogen because it has an ability to fix its own nitrogen from the air using nodules from the roots.

SITE SELECTION AND LAND PREPARATION

A well-drained, fertile, and sandy loam to clay loam type of soil with pH value of 5.5 to 6.5 is good for cowpea production.

Prepare the land thoroughly by alternate plowing and harrowing until the desired tilt was achieved. Construct furrows with a row spacing of 75-80 centimeters.

PLANTING

Sow 2-3 seeds per hill in a furrow spacing of 20-30 centimeters between hills. The depth of the seeds should be 2.5 to 5 centimeters only to avoid rotting and uneven plant growth. Replant the missing hills 3 days after emergence. Thin-out the plants 2 weeks after planting, leaving 2 healthy plants per hill.

Remove the seedlings 10 days after emergence. Leave 10-15 plants per meter.

FERTILIZER APPLICATION

Type of Fertilizer	Rate of Fertilizer/ ha.	Time of Application	Method of Application
14-14-14	4 bags	14 days after planting	Drill along furrows
46-0-0	1 bag		
0-0-60	1 bag		



IRRIGATION

Irrigate the field weekly throughout the growing period of the cowpea.

WEEDING AND CULTIVATION

Controlling weeds is necessary at 14 days after planting. Remove the weeds manually or cultivate the soil using cultivator. Spot weeding is done to minimize weeds in the area.



INSECT PESTS AND DISEASE CONTROL

Insect	Control
Leafminer	Spray insecticide (Carbaryl)
Aphids	Spray insecticide (Chlorpyrifos)
Cutworms	Spray insecticide (Cypermethrin)
Semi-looper	Spray insecticide (Chlorpyrifos)
Bean pod borer	Spray insecticide (Carbaryl)
Beanfly	Spray insecticide (Methonol, Chlorpyrifos)

Diseases	Control
Anthracnose Root rot Damping-off Leaf spot Rust Fusarium wilt	Crop rotation, use quality seeds, use resistant variety, uproot and bury infected plants and spray fungicides such as Benomyl and Mancozeb

OTHER CONTROL METHODS

- Plant repellant crops around the production area (marigold and chichirica)
- Maintain the cleanliness of the production area

HARVESTING

If it is used as vegetable, harvest immature pods usually 7 to 9 days after flowers have opened at interval of 3 to 5 days. However, if is for seed production, harvest only when the pod color turns into brown, then dry the seeds gradually under the sun to prevent seed cracking.



For more information, write, visit, or call:
NUEVA ECIJA FRUITS & VEGETABLES SEED CENTER
CLSU Compound, Science City of Muñoz, 3119 Nueva Ecija
0916-508-3569

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