

Cowpea is an important legume of the tropics with its various uses such as grains, vegetable, fodder and as cover crop. The plant parts that are used for food are nutritious, providing proteins, vitamins and minerals. Another important feature of cowpea is, it fixes atmospheric nitrogen and enriches the soil.

Cowpea is also exported to New Zealand and Canada as green pods and to Australia as peeled and frozen green peas.

### 1. Recommended Varieties

- Mana - preferred for export
- Tara - preferred for export
- Rachna - for local consumption
- Shikhar - for local consumption.



### 2. Seed rate and Expected Yield (per hectare)

Variety	Seed rate/ha	Green pod yield/ha	Dry seed yield/ha
Mana	28kg	3 to 4 tonnes	1.5 to 2.0 tonnes
Tara	20kg	5 to 7 tonnes	2.0 to 2.5 tonnes
Rachna	23kg	5 to 6 tonnes	2.5 to 3.0 tonnes
Shikhar	25kg	4 to 5 tonnes	2.0 to 2.5 tonnes

### 3. Soil Requirements

Wide range of soil types are suitable but good drainage is necessary.

### 4. Planting Time

Cowpeas can be planted from February to October. Planting during wetter months (Nov-Jan) will result in heavy vegetation, late flowering and reduced yields.

### 5. Planting Density

Fertile soils – 65cm between rows and 30cm within rows.

Poor soil – 65cm between rows and 20cm within rows.

### 6. Method of Planting

Direct sowing in rows. Place one or two seeds 20 to 30cm apart in rows and cover the seeds lightly with soil.

### 7. Fertilizer Requirement

1. A mixture of Blend A & B at 200kg/ha of each blend applied as basal. (Lower rates on more fertile soil).
2. Foliar application of BioBrew growth at the rate of 300ml/15L of water at 6 leaf stage.
3. Apply BioBrew harvest at the rate of 300ml/15L of water from flowering onwards every fortnight.

### 8. Weed Control

Hoeing or mechanical interrow cultivation can be done as and when required.

### 9. Pest Control

1. Spray Lannate at 25ml in 15litres of water to control pod borer (*Maruca testulalis*) or spray Phyrethroids at



40ml/15L (Sold as Attack). Spray only during the flowering time and as and when required. Regular inspection of the pest during flowering and after each harvest is necessary.

- Aphids, Maruca, Leaf Miners and other pests - apply Dimethioate at 15ml/15L of water (Sold as Rogor) or Suncis at 12ml/15L of water

### 10. Disease Control

Cercospora leaf spot, Round spots, red-dish brown or purple in color. Not often seen until flowering.

#### *Chemical Control:*

Apply Benomyl at 10g/15L of water. (Sold as Benlate) or Mancozeb at 50g/15L of water or Bravo at 45ml/15L of water.

#### *Cultural Control:*

Crop rotation and general field sanitation is recommended. Use clean seeds.

### 11. Maturity

Mana	—	65 to 70 days
Tara	—	65 to 70 days
Rachna	—	55 to 60 days
Shikhar	—	55 to 60 days

### 12. Harvesting and Storage

Handpick green filled tender pods as vegetable for local or export market. The dry pods are also handpicked, dried, threshed, winnowed and seeds sun dried for storage.

For long storage, seeds maybe coated with a thin layer of cooking oil (3ml/100g of seeds) to prevent weevils from attacking.

### 13. Gross Margin

For 6 tonnes/ha Green at \$3/kg:

Income	-	\$18,000
Expenses	-	\$3,900
<b>G.M</b>	-	<b>\$14,100</b>

For 2 tonnes/ha Dry at \$3.00/kg:

Income	-	\$6,000
Expenses	-	\$3,414
<b>G.M</b>	-	<b>\$2,586</b>

For more information contact:

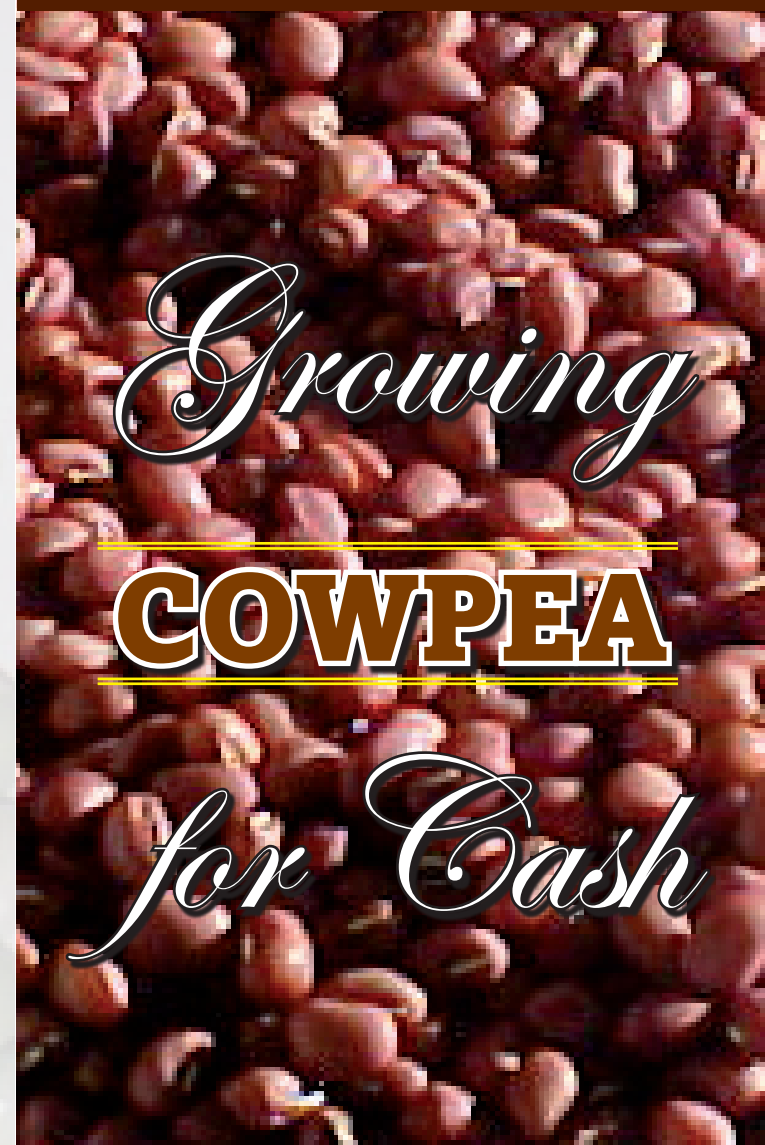
Legalega Research Station,  
PO Box 9086,  
Nadi Airport.  
Telephone: 672 2522  
Fax: 672 4988



For more information contact: Ministry of Agriculture, Private Mail, Raiwaqa.  
Phone: (+679) 338 4233 Fax (+679) 338 7157 / Website: [www.agriculture.gov.fj](http://www.agriculture.gov.fj)  
Facebook: Ministry of Agriculture Fiji Twitter: Fiji Agriculture  
Email: [agrihelp@govnet.gov.fj](mailto:agrihelp@govnet.gov.fj)



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Farmer's Leaflet 2015