

Cow pea (*Vigna unguiculata*)

Varieties:

RC19: Recommended for all zones. Plant type erect and height is 80-120 cm. It bears 6-12 pods per plant and pods are 10-12 cm long. Average 100 seed weight is 10g. Average yield 10-14 q/ha.

TVX 644-02E: Recommended for all zones. Plant type erect and height is 100-120cm. Pods are long containing 10-14 seeds per pod. Seeds are creamy in colour and bold. Average 100 seed weight is 15 g. Average yield 12-15 q/ha.

Sowing Time: August

Soil Type: It can be grown on all types of soils. But well drained sandy loam soil is most suitable.

Land Preparation: The land is to be ploughed 2-3 times followed by leveling.

Seed Rate: The seed requirement is 30-35 kg/ha or 4.0-4.5 kg/bigha.

Spacing: A spacing of 30cm between rows and 10-15 cm between plants is to be given.

Manures and Fertilizers: Compost or FYM @ 4-5 t/ha or 6q/bigha is to be applied.

Nutrient	Requirement (kg/ha)	Form	Fertilizer requirement	
			kg/ha	kg/bigha
N	15	Urea	32	4
P ₂ O ₅	35	SSP	220	30
K ₂ O	0	MOP	-	-

Interculture: One weeding is to be done at 20-25 days after sowing.

Plant Protection:

A. Disease: No serious disease has so far been observed.

Harvesting:

Cow pea for grain purpose is harvested by picking the mature pods. Threshing can be done by beating the dried pods.

Uses:

Cowpea grains contain 24% protein and a rich source of carbohydrate, calcium, phosphorus and iron. The grain can be used as a pulse, either as whole or as *dal* and also as flour after husking or with husk. The pods can be used as vegetables when tender.