

PRODUCT DATA SHEET

Lentil

Botanical name	Lens culinaris
Seeding rate	Large-seed varieties 80-100 kg/ha, small-seed varieties 40-60 kg/ha
Distance between rows	15-35 cm
Sowing period	Late March to early May
Sowing depth	4-5 cm
Sowing method	Conventional seed planter



Botany

- Family: Fabaceae (legumes)
- Annual herbaceous plant that grows to a height of 10 to 50 cm
- Alternate leaves, paripinnate with 4 to 12 pairs of leaflets
- Racemes contain only 1 to 3 flowers
- White or blue papilionaceous flowers
- Flowering period: April to September
- Mature legume is yellow, oblong and 10 to 15 mm long (maturation between May and September)

Climate requirements

- Prefers warm, dry climate
- Distribution of rainfall during vegetation period is key: excessive rainfall during flowering and harvest periods causes the flowers to fall off, the grains in the pod go to seed and become brown

Soil requirements

- Clay-poor, rocky soils, shell limestone and sand lime are ideal
- Poor soils on which other crops no longer thrive due to nutrient deficiency also work well

Crop rotation

- On its own, preferably sown after cereals
- On fields with weed growth, after root crops (potatoes work very well) because it cannot withstand competition due to slow development
- Cultivation mainly in mixtures since other crops act as a support for lentils
- Interval of 4 to 6 years should be maintained due to low autotolerance

Soil preparation

- Well-loosened, medium-fine, weed-free seedbed is ideal
- Weed suppression is crucial
- Medium-deep stubble cultivation in autumn
- In spring, when the ground is sufficiently dry, soil should be prepared using cultivators and then toothed harrows (no deep loosening of the soil in spring so as to avoid moisture loss)

Crop protection

- Weeds: removal using tined weeders before shoot emergence and up to growth height of 5 to 10 cm (use of herbicides is not permissible)
- Diseases: pose few problems as cultivation is limited; occasional root rot, ring rot disease and black spot disease
- Pests: damage by birds can be an issue (sow seeds as deep as possible)



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Fertilisation

- N application is generally not required due to the presence of nitrogen-fixing rhizobia.
- Nutrient removal in kg/ha for yields of 1,000 kg/ha:

Total N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	MgO
36	11	14	2

Harvest and treatment

- Yield: 200-1,000 kg/ha
- Harvest period: from late July to late August
- Harvest time: compromise between maturity of the lentil and the supporting crop; additionally, lentils mature irregularly (from bottom to top)
- Threshing at grain moisture <20%, ideally <16%
- Higher moisture content may be caused by weather conditions; immediate drying is required
- Harvest using combine harvester



If you have questions, please feel free to contact us!

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