



Pigeon Pea

Cajanus cajan

LEGUME · ANNUAL / SHORT-LIVED PERENNIAL · WARM SEASON

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

A deep-rooted, drought-resilient tropical legume for pulse and vegetable production, forage, green manure, windbreaks and diversified row-crop or orchard systems.

WHY SHORTLIST THIS PRODUCT

- Biological nitrogen**
 As a legume, it can support biological nitrogen fixation when compatible rhizobia and sound establishment are used.
- Dry-period resilience**
 Established stands can maintain useful function through dry periods, subject to soil depth and local conditions.
- Managed forage**
 Can support forage goals when harvest stage, animal class and local feeding guidance are considered together.
- Green-manure fit**
 Fits planned rotations that return biomass and nutrients to the soil ahead of the next crop.

PRODUCT SNAPSHOT

CROP TYPE

Legume · Annual / short-lived perennial

SEASON / CLIMATE

Warm season

PRIMARY ROLES

Nitrogen · Drought · Forage

GENERAL SOIL FIT

Confirm locally

SOIL pH

4.5–8.4

Establish well. Manage the whole cycle

ESTABLISHMENT

- 01 Choose the window**
Match planting to the product's season, frost risk and the field's moisture outlook.
- 02 Test and prepare**
Use a current soil test, control competing vegetation and prepare the seedbed or planting zone for good contact.
- 03 Calibrate the lot**
Confirm the current seed lot, germination, treatment and whether the recommended rate is bulk seed or pure live seed.
- 04 Establish carefully**
Follow the technical reference for placement and method, then verify emergence and stand uniformity early.
- 05 Support nodulation**
Use the compatible inoculant where required and protect it from heat, drying and incompatible seed treatments.

TECHNICAL REFERENCE

Soil pH
4.5–8.4

Planting depth
≈4 cm / 1.5 in

Drought tolerance
Very high

Waterlogging tolerance
Low; free drainage required

Frost response
Defoliated or killed depending on severity

Inoculation
Cowpea-group rhizobia where needed

MANAGEMENT

- 01 Set the objective**
Manage the stand for its primary role—cover, soil recovery, forage, grain, tubers or a planned combination.
- 02 Watch the stage**
Use crop stage and field condition—not the calendar alone—to time grazing, harvest or termination.
- 03 Maintain function**
Monitor moisture, fertility, weeds, pests and stand density; adjust before lost ground becomes difficult to recover.
- 04 Plan what follows**
Coordinate residue, regrowth or termination with the needs and planting window of the next enterprise.
- 05 Verify locally**
Adapt the program to local climate, soils, regulations, animal class and product labeling.

Primary uses
Pulse, vegetable, forage, cover, green manure

Row-crop rate
8–10 lb/ac

Cover / forage rate
>20 kg/ha

Best temperature
18–30°C / 65–86°F

Seedling emergence
2–3 weeks

Growth habit
Erect, branching shrub legume

IMPORTANT MANAGEMENT NOTE

Reference values are not performance guarantees. Confirm the current seed lot, label, local agronomic recommendation and any animal-use restrictions before planting or feeding.

Technical basis: Tropical Forages — *Cajanus cajan* profile; USDA-NRCS — Pigeonpea (*Cajanus cajan*) Plant Guide; USDA-ARS — Pigeon pea forage and cover-crop research

FIELD NOTE

Rates and performance vary with environment, seed lot and management. Scan for the current online profile and supporting resources.

SCAN FOR UPDATES

