

Chickpeas

Cicer arietinum · Legume family

DIFFICULTY Easy
TYPE Annual, direct sown, warm season
MATURITY 90–110 days



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Low–moderate,
drought-tolerant
once established



SOIL PH
6.0–7.5



SPACING
15cm × 40cm



DEPTH
3–4cm

01 Nitrogen fixers

Chickpeas are unusually drought-tolerant for a legume and, like their relatives, leave the soil richer in nitrogen for whatever's planted next.



nitrogen-fixing nodules along the roots

may need a stake or trellis

02 Planting

METHOD	Direct sow once soil has warmed.
SOIL	Well-drained; tolerates poorer soil than most legumes.
TIMING	Sow in spring after frost risk passes.

04 Problems

- **Botrytis/fungal rot** — humid, wet conditions; avoid overhead watering.
- **Pod borer** — larvae in developing pods; monitor and hand-pick.
- **Poor pod fill** — waterlogging; ensure good drainage.
- **Few pests otherwise** — a relatively trouble-free crop.

03 Growing care

- Water while establishing; ease off once plants are growing well.
- Avoid overhead watering, which encourages fungal issues.
- Weed while young — plants are slow to cover the ground.
- Leave roots in place after harvest for the nitrogen benefit.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Pods dry and rattle, plants yellow and die back.
METHOD	Pull whole plants once fully dry, then thresh pods.
CURING	Dry thoroughly on the plant or spread out after pulling.
STORAGE	Airtight, cool, dark — keeps a year or more dried.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Corn Cucumber	Onion Garlic	Excellent precursor to heavy feeders; avoid following other legumes.