

Lentils

Lens culinaris · Legume family

DIFFICULTY Easy
TYPE Annual, direct sown, cool season
MATURITY 80–110 days



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Low–moderate



SOIL PH
6.0–7.0



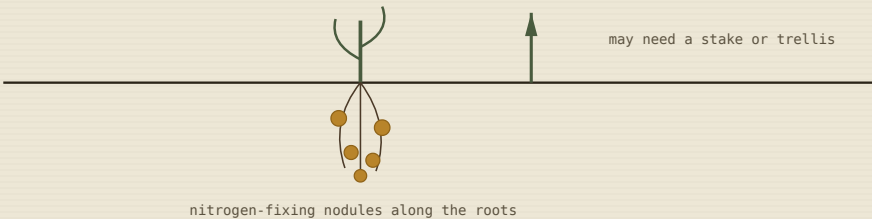
SPACING
5cm × 30cm



DEPTH
2–3cm

01 Nitrogen fixers

A low, bushy legume that's easy to grow at a small scale — worthwhile on a homestead less for yield efficiency and more for the soil-building benefit and the novelty of home-grown lentils.



02 Planting

METHOD	Direct sow, fairly dense.
SOIL	Well-drained, even poor soil is tolerated.
TIMING	Sow in the cooler months.

04 Problems

- **Fungal rot** — humid, wet conditions; ensure good airflow and drainage.
- **Aphids** — occasional cluster on tips; hose off.
- **Poor pod set** — heat stress; grow in the cooler months.
- **Bird damage to seedlings** — net if pressure is high.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Corn Carrot	Onion Garlic	Excellent precursor to heavy feeders.

03 Growing care

- Water lightly and consistently while establishing.
- Weed while young — low growth is easily outcompeted.
- Avoid excess nitrogen fertiliser, which grows leaf over pods.
- Leave roots in place after harvest for the nitrogen benefit.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Pods dry and rattle, plants yellow.
METHOD	Pull whole plants and thresh once fully dry.
CURING	Dry thoroughly before storing.
STORAGE	Airtight, cool, dark — keeps well over a year dried.