

# ROYAL TIMES NEWSLETTER

ISSUE  
NO. #13



Kenya Highland Seed  
Co. Ltd.  
For greater production



**Royal Products! Royal Results!**



**HIGH  
QUALITY  
SEEDS**

Kenya Highland Seed Co. Ltd. has over 300 strong distributor networks of Agro-dealers located in all the significant agricultural areas in Kenya and has a branch in Tanzania as well as agents in Uganda, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Burundi. Sales in Kenya are through the distributor network supported by our Regional Agronomists, who are aided by field assistants in each region. We ensure that our customers find value in the purchase and use of our products by offering excellent customer service as well as extension services. The company also has an extensive network of industry contacts including KEPHIS, Government Extension Workers, NGO and input suppliers.

Kenya Highland Seed Co. Ltd. is a member of Seed Trade Association of Kenya (STAK), African Seed Trade Association (AFSTA), Fresh Produce Exporter Association of Kenya (FPEAK), Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) & British Chamber of Commerce Kenya.

PAGE 01

FOLLOW US ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS FOR LATEST CONTENT





# PEA ITALIA WONDER

Peas are annual plants, with a life cycle of one year. They are a cool-season crop grown in many parts of the country; planting can take place from winter to early summer depending on location. The average pea weighs between 0.1 and 0.36 gram. The immature peas (and in snow peas the tender pod as well) are used as a vegetable, fresh, frozen or canned; varieties of the species typically called field peas are grown to produce dry peas like the split pea shelled from a matured pod. These are the basis of peas porridge and pea soup, staples of medieval cuisine; in Europe, consuming fresh immature green peas was an innovation of early modern cuisine.

**Pea Italian Wonder** is Kenya **Highland Seed Co. Ltd** newest pea in the garden pea segment adding the list to three which includes: **Somerwood** and **Green feast**.

Introduced in 2022 with Successful trials in the following regions; **Molo, Naivasha, Kingop, Mt. Kenya, Nakuru and Mau-Narok**, the **Pea Italian Wonder** suits both local and export markets.



## Attributes

- **Pod length:** 10-12cm
- **No. of seeds per pod:** 8-12 seeds.
- **Plant (Bush) Height:** 0.7-1.0m depending whether its supported or not.
- **Seed Color:** Light green to green.
- **Tolerance:** Intermediate tolerance to Powdery mildew, Fusarium wilt and downy mildew.

## ALL ABOUT PEA ITALIAN WONDER SEEDS

### ESTABLISHMENT

- Soil: Fine tilth
- Seed rate: 100,000sds per acre
- Spacing: Inter row:50-60cm, Intra-row:7.10 cm
- Planting depth: 0.5-1"
- Water Requirement: ETC of 412 mm per year
- Maturity:56-60 days from planting depending on the region's climatic conditions.
- Estimated yield per acre:3500-5500kgs depending on crop management.

## PEST & DISEASES

- Ascochyta disease: *Mycosphaerella pinodes*/*Phoma medicaginis*/*Ascochyta pisi*
- Seed treatment with appropriate fungicides, rotation.
- Brown spot:*Pseudomonas syringae*
- Plant only disease- free (certified) seed, Continuously rotate crops.
- Downy mildew: *Peronospora viciae*
- Crop rotation of atleast 3 seasons(3yrs).
- Fusarium root rot *Fusarium solani*
- Management: Cultural practices: Seed dressing with appropriate chemicals.
- Powdery mildew *Erysiphe pisi*

**Management:** planting resistant varieties, using overhead irrigation to wash fungus from leaves and reduce its viability, Use sulfur-based fungicide or any other fungicide.

## PEST

- Aphids (Pea aphid, Bean aphid, Cowpea aphid, Melon aphid, Peach aphid, etc.) *Acyrtosiphon pisum*
- Aphis spp.
- Leafminers *Lyriomyza* spp.
- Mexican bean beetle *Epilachna varivestis*
- Thrips (Western flower thrips, Onion thrips, etc.) *Frankliniella occidentalis*
- Thrips *tabaci*
- Root knot nematode *Meloidogyne* spp.
- Spider mites (Two-spotted spider mite) *Tetranychus urticae*



# CABBAGE JABALI F1

Cabbage farming in Kenya is a lucrative business for farmers since the vegetable crop forms an essential part of the diet and income for Kenyan families. At **Royal Seeds**, we continue to grow with our farmers by closely working with our **suppliers and breeders on testing and selecting cultivars that suit market preferences** and are well-adapted to changing weather patterns.

Our **newest cabbage variety JABALI F1 prides itself** among the very many Royal Seed success stories. The variety has exceptional traits such as **good crop vigor, excellent uniformity, very good field holding capacity, high disease tolerances against black rot (*Xanthomonas campestris*), fusarium wilt, yellow leaf virus, and attractive green round compact heads which directly impact the shelf life for those farmers transporting the cabbages to the market.**

**JABALI F1** trials have been conducted country wide in main growing areas of **Mt. Kenya, Nakuru, Nandi, Uasin Gishu, Nyandarua and Mt. Elgon** by our PD department and the variety has shown its **ability to adapt well in different altitudes and weather conditions.**



Variety can be grown in a wide range of soil types but **thrive best in well-drained soils** that have a good moisture-holding capacity. **Best soil pH ranges between 6.0 and 6.5 with high organic matter content.**

## ALL ABOUT CABBAGE JABALI F1 SEEDS

Common pests in the field during cabbage production are cutworms, aphids, diamond back moth (DBM) and leaf eating caterpillars but farmers can access proper agronomical support from our field team that extends country wide. Alternatively, farmers can start off their Jabali F1 crop by purchasing pathogen free seedlings from accredited propagators within their regions.

## IMPORTANT SUCCESS FACTORS

### JABALI F1, IMPORTANT SUCCESS FACTORS

#### JABALI F1 SEEDING RATE

1. Recommended 50-75gms of seed per acre.

#### JABALI F1 PLANT POPULATION & YIELD

1. 10,000-14,000 heads per acre.
2. 40-60 tons per acre.

#### JABALI F1 SPACING & HEAD SIZE

1. 60cm by 45cm.
2. 4 to 5kgs per head.

#### JABALI F1 MATURITY PERIOD

1. 75days from transplanting.
2. Regular irrigation, application of well rotten farm yard manure at planting and timely application of a well balanced fertilizer (NPK) during crop growth will guarantee a farmer his success.

## WHY DO CABBAGES FORM MULTIPLE HEADS?

In cabbage production, there are a few cultural and temperature elements that can contribute to this. At our Centre of Excellence located at Athi-River, we have carried out extensive research and made the following conclusions.

- **High temperatures (> 27 )** during transplanting and fluctuations in nighttime temperatures will lead to cabbage seedlings forming multiple heads.
- **Early damage to the growing tips** by piercing and sucking pests such as aphids, swede midges, bagrada bugs and others.





## ALL ABOUT CABBAGE JABALI FI SEEDS

Proper and timely scouting can help a farmer evade losses from these pests since the infestation can lead to a **35% yield loss** in brassicas due to multiple head formations. **At Royal Seeds**, our product development department continues to keep our field team and farmers in the know regarding the information on developing pests' biology and ecology to ensure **effective management recommendations**.

## ABOUT OUR LABORATORY

The lab performs critical functions for the agricultural industry, testing seed samples to ensure that seeds purchased by farmers are quality, meet minimum germination standards, and are free of noxious weed seeds.

The lab was established in the year 2022 & currently can perform:

- **In-house germination test analysis.**
- **Purity analysis**

It contains **dark room chambers** for **germination tests** of high-value products and other seeds germination tests

Our near future projections are to have:

- **Water test analysis**
- **Soil test analysis- Nutrient content both Micro/Macro, Alkalinity & acidity test.**

- **Swede Midges destructive stage** is the larvae stage that causes damage to the apical meristems of Brassicas by secreting enzymes in the plant. This results in destroying cell walls causing the cell sap to ooze and finally feed on the cell contents. This feeding results to malformed plants with galls, brown corky tissues and blind heads or multiple heads.

- **Bagrada bugs resemble stink bugs** with an adult ranging from 5-7mm in length, black in colour with white and orange markings. The female lays up to 100eggs on leaves or in the soil beneath plants. Eggs that are freshly deposited are white in colour but turn orange over time. These eggs hatch in 5 to 10days and undergo another 5 growth stages before molting to become an adult. In general, the life cycle lasts 3 to 4 weeks and several generations can occur within a year.

- **Extensive damage occurs in brassica crops and related crucifers such as turnip, rape and mustard.** The nymph of the pests suck sap from the apical meristems of young seedlings. Once the apical meristems are destroyed, the young seedling loses its apical dominance resulting to adventitious bud break hence multiple heads development. The adults feed on young cabbage leaves causing small puncture marks that are visible as white patches on the leaf edges.



# WE ARE HERE FOR YOU;

Share this email with a friend or two!



---

FOLLOW US ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS FOR LATEST CONTENT



---

Reach out to us directly via email or phone

 e: [marketing@khs.co.ke](mailto:marketing@khs.co.ke)  [www.royalseed.biz](http://www.royalseed.biz)

 0780 884 087  TOLL FREE 0800 720 250

 +254 725 549 997 | 734 257 635  +23 470 6967 7560  
**KENYA** **NIGERIA**

 +255 757 466 746 | 758 888 781  +256 750 584 620 | 414 231 385  
**TANZANIA** **UGANDA**

You received this email because you signed up on our website.

[Unsubscribe](#)