Pest and disease attacks may occur in some seasons or when rainfall is high. One can spray the crop with Ambush CY or Decis or sumithion especially for aphids which transmit BCMV disease, thrips, flower beetles, pod borers and catapillars which damage the leaves, flowers and pods. Stored beans are also prone to bean bruchids and control by sunning at weekly interval, sieving at 10 day intervals, or dusting with insecticides e.g. Actellic 2% dust is recommended.

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K131 (KABALIRA) BEANS

GROWERS' GUIDE

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Characteristics:

K131 referred to as Kabalira in some parts of central Uganda is cream with brown speckles, small seeded and matures in about 90 days. It is a bush type of beans and can yield up to 2500 kg/ha under favourable weather and management conditions. K 131 variety is very tasty both as fresh or dry bean and has relatively short cooking time.

Advantages over K20:

K 20 commonly know as Nambale yields only up to 1000 kg/ha on the average while K131 on the average yields over 40 - 60% higher than K20. K131 is also resistant to bean common mosaic virus (BCMV) and tolerates most bean diseases, drought, heavy rains and poor soils. It also yields relatively well in acidic soils where other varieties of beans would not perform well.

Weeding should be done at least twice at 3 weeks and then 6 weeks after planting depending on weed infestation. Avoid weeding at flowering stage as this may lead to flower abortions and eventually low yield.

Fertilization in beans is not always a must but if the soil is infertile, application of fertilizer is recommended. On average, application of 20 - 45 kg N, 30 - 60 kg P_2o_5 and to 30 to 60 kg K_20 per na is sufficient for good to optimum yields depending on soil test. Application of 10 tons/ha of farm yard manure or kitchen refuse can also supply the necessary nutrients.

Growth Requirements and management:

The beans need a well prepared land and planting done when moisture is enough to allow easy germination. Plant K131 at depth of 5 cm and at spacing of 60 cm x 10 cm. The chop and plant method used by farmers also give a similar population. Too deep a planting may lead to poor germination and rotting of the seeds. K131 should be planted at the beginning of the rains. It should also be timed such that harvesting is done when there is no rainfall otherwise this will aid spread of diseases.

K131 can be grown as a sole crop at spacing of 60 cm x 10 cm or it can be intercropped with banana, maize, cassava etc depending on the cropping system in that particular area. The beans provide nitrogen (N) through fixation and the component crop benefits from the nitrogen (N) released.