

# Legumes Fact Sheet

RLF Specialty Fertilisers for Crop Nutrition

Legume crops are a vital part of farm practice, but they are also a vital contributor to the human food chain. RLF Specialty Fertilisers support these outcomes.

## Overview

**Legumes** have been part of the world's agricultural systems since the earliest of times. They are grown primarily for their grain seed called pulse, for livestock fodder and silage, and as enrichment for the soil. Legume agriculture acts as a primary source of nitrogen for many cropping systems, and in addition are a valuable food source for humans and domestic animals. Legumes are often used in rotation with much larger trading grain crops.

Well-known members of the legume family include alfalfa, peas, beans, lentils, soybeans, peanuts, lupin bean, clover, mesquite, carob and tamarind. The legume fruit is a simple dry fruit that develops from a simple carpel that opens along a seam on two sides. A common name for this type of fruit is a pod, although this term also applies to a few other fruit types, such as that of vanilla (a capsule) and of radish (a silique).

Legumes most notable feature is that they generally have a symbiotic nitrogen-fixing bacteria in their root nodules. It is for that reason, they play a key role in crop rotation.

RLF has Specialty Liquid Fertiliser products for all types of agriculture, including legumes. RLF Specialty Liquid Fertiliser products deliver a complete and balanced nutrient package for legume crops. They are designed to be either broad-spectrum, crop-specific or have single element nutrients to address crop and soil deficiencies and they are perfect for the cultivation of legume crops.



**Rural Liquid  
Fertilisers**

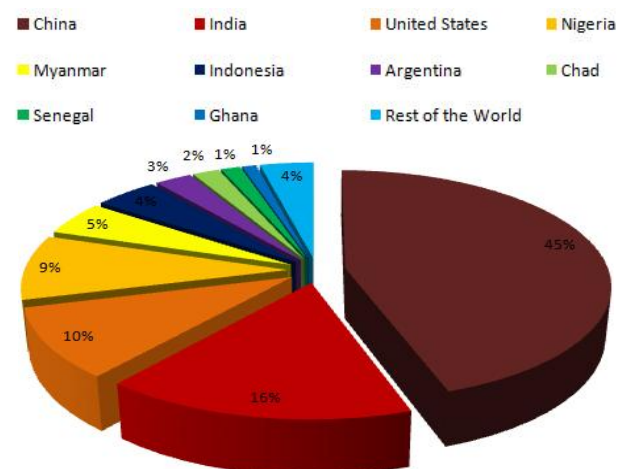
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# Fast Facts

- The world's top legume producing countries are very diverse because of the crop types that exist within this crop type group. Groundnut (or peanut) has become the most popular human food source from all of the legume crop types, especially in tropical Asian countries.
- The top 10 peanut (legume) growing countries are responsible for about 95% of world production. In 2016 these countries were China (44.7%), India (16.3%), USA (9.8%), Nigeria (9.1%), Myanmar (4.8%), Indonesia (4.5%), Argentina (2.6%), Chad (1.9%), Senegal (1.4%), Ghana (1.0%). Rest of the World (3.8%)
- Peanuts (legumes) are thought to have first been domesticated and cultivated in the valleys of Paraguay and Bolivia some 7,000 years ago.
- Peanuts (legumes) are known by many names around the world – earth-nuts, ground-nuts, goober peas, pygmy nuts or monkey nuts. But curiously it is not a nut at all.
- Peanuts (legumes) are annual herbaceous plants growing 30cm – 50cm tall and their flowers are a typical peaflower in shape, coloured yellow with reddish veining.
- Although the peanut (legumes) was used as a garden crop by early civilisations it was mostly used as an animal feed stock.
- Thousands of peanut (legumes) cultivars are grown throughout the world but four major cultivar groups stand out as being the most popular. They are Spanish, Runner, Virginia and Valencia.
- Peanuts have many uses. They can be eaten raw, used in cooking and made into solvents and oils. They are also present in some medicines, cosmetics and textile materials.
- Across the world peanuts are one of the most popular ingredients in popular confections such as peanut butter, candy and chocolate bars, peanut brittle. They are most popular however as roasted and salted nuts.
- Peanut Oil is often used in cooking because of its mild flavour and relatively high smoke point. Because it has high monounsaturated content it is considered more healthy than saturated oils.

- Peanuts have great nutritional value. They provide over 30 essential nutrients to the human body and are a good source of niacin, folate, fibre, vitamin E and magnesium.
- Chickpea (legumes) is rich source of dietary fibre and proteins. It contains vitamins B6 and B9 and minerals such as iron and magnesium.
- The leaves of chickpea (legumes) are used for the manufacture of blue (indigo-like) dyes.
- Chickpea (legumes) is also known as garbanzo, and originated from Turkey, Syria and Iran.
- The Soluble fibre in lentils (legumes) helps keep cholesterol down and blood sugars under control making it a popular choice for consumers, particularly those in developed countries.









## The World's Top Legume-Producing Countries



Other countries of importance for different types of legume crops are as follows:

Chick Peas	Lentils	Alfalfa
India	Canada	United States of America
Australia	India	Canada
Pakistan	Australia	Italy
Turkey	Turkey	France
Myanmar	United States of America	China
Ethiopia	Nepal	Argentina
Iran	Ethiopia	Chile
Mexico	Syria	South Africa
Canada	Bangladesh	Australia
United States of America	Iran	New Zealand

# RLF Products for Legume Crops

SEED OR SOAK	CROP NUTRITION	FOLIAR NPK	OTHER
 	 	 	 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Fertiliser for seeds</li> <li>■ Easy to apply with quick uptake of nutrient</li> <li>■ Increases the available (inorganic) phosphorus of the seed</li> <li>■ 'kick-starts' germination and supplies energy for robust early growth and setting higher yield potential</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Crop-specific broad-spectrum foliar fertiliser specifically for legume crops</li> <li>■ Leaf applied, efficiently absorbed with nutrients immediately available to the plant</li> <li>■ Protective qualities that guard against soil nutrient variability and deficiency</li> <li>■ Delivers root mass of greater size and volume, returning more matter to the soil and enhancing natural soil fertility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Highly concentrated liquid phosphorus and potassium</li> <li>■ Imminently versatile - suitable for furrow injection, fertigation or foliar</li> <li>■ Near neutral pH and free of chloride and sulphate</li> <li>■ Easily mixed with UAN and urea for foliar spraying and with high citric acid content is highly suitable for foliar tank mixes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ High-performance zinc and copper with phosphorus</li> <li>■ Delivers nutrients rapidly and works effectively because of its ionic form</li> <li>■ Improves the soil for the following season because of increased organic matter from the root mass and rhizosphere activity left behind by the crop</li> <li>■ highly concentrated liquid fertiliser with excellent handling capabilities</li> </ul>



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