

## Lentil: A Potential Winter Grain Legume Crop for Temperate Australia

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### Summary

Lentil, a short-statured annual grain legume, is potentially well-adapted to dryland production in Mediterranean-type environments in Australia. The opportunity exists for a local industry to supply the modest local requirements, and ultimately, to compete on world markets. Red (split) lentils offer better prospects than their larger-seeded green counterparts, largely because of minimal seed weathering problems.

Lentils can be sown and harvested with conventional broadacre machinery. Appropriate sowing times and rates have been determined, and strategies for dealing with weed, disease and pest problems are suggested. Experimental yields of 1200 kg/ha indicate that the crop could be profitable.

### Introduction

Lentil (*Lens culinaris Med.*) is a winter grain legume of temperate and subtropical regions. Although accounting for only 2.4% of world pulse production, it is a key component of agriculture in some regions, especially in the Indian subcontinent. Worldwide, yields are low, with the crop represented largely by local landraces and grown under conditions of agronomic neglect. Recently, there has been a strengthening, or initiation, of breeding programmes, notably in the USA, Canada and India. Lentil is one of the mandate crops of the International Centre for Agricultural research in Dry Areas (ICARDA), in Syria.

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1. Who wrote this article?
2. Which countries are mentioned in the article?
3. Which crop is the article about?
4. When was this article published?
5. Where was this article published?

Now answer TRUE or FALSE according to the article above.

6. A Mediterranean-type environment exists in Australia.
7. Lentils are not grown in Australia.
8. Australian consumption of lentils is extremely high.
9. Red lentils are more difficult to grow than green lentils.
10. Farmers do not need specialized machinery to cultivate lentils.
11. The article contains suggestions on weed control.
12. Experiments have been carried out on lentil in Australia.
13. Lentil is the most important crop in India.
14. Lentil crops give low yields in most countries of the world.
15. North America has started giving more attention to lentil.