

DOLICHOS RONGAI

Dolichos Bean

A trailing annual/biennial and is best suited to warm areas with rainfall of over 800mm, but some cultivars will grow with about 650mm rainfall. Dolichos beans can be used for silage, grazing or hay. In terms of establishment it needs to be sowed at 50kg/ha in 1m rows during November to January.

RONGAI

Introduced from Rongai area of Kenya to sub-tropical and tropical Australia in 1962 as CPI-17883(CPI 16883?). It is a late flowering variety with high dry matter production. RONGAI has white flowers and light brown seeds. In the absence of frosts, it may flower over several months. It is most commonly a forage cultivar. Seed weighs 5,000/kg.

Rongai grown in summer in Australia is a prolific and vigorously twining herbaceous annual or short-lived perennial. Stem robust, 3–6 cm, leaves trifoliolate; leaflets broad ovate-rhomboid, 7.5 to 15 cm long, thin, acute apex, almost smooth above and short-haired underneath. Petioles long and slender. Inflorescence lax, fascicled, of many flowered racemes on elongated peduncles. Flowers white.

Pods 4–5 cm long, broadly scimitar shaped, smooth and beaked by persistent style, contain two to four seeds. Seeds are buff or pale brown-coloured, ovoid, laterally compressed with a linear white conspicuous hilum, 1.0 cm long and 0.7 cm broad.

Grows upto 1 meter high with longer stems in climbing types (upto 6 meters tall). Leaves are pubescent, trifoliolate, 3–15 cm long and 1.5–14 cm wide. Flowers purple or white, 4–20 cm long and 1.2–1.6 cm in diameter on peduncles that are 2–40 cm long. Pods vary in shape and colour, flat or inflated, 5–20 cm long, 1–5 cm wide.

- Can be used for silage, grazing or hay
- Sow 50kg/ha in 1m rows
- Plant during November to January

