FarmLens Ltd

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Crop details

Foxtail Millet

Setaria italica

Family: Poaceae

Categories

Cereals & Pseudocereals

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Quick stats

Family	Poaceae
Typical harvest	1.6 t/ha
Varieties	2
Pests and diseases	3
Seasons	2

Crop profile

Growth habit	annual
Days to harvest	80-110
Main uses	Cereal grain
Pollination	wind
Origin and where it grows	Asia; grown in drylands

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	22 - 32 °C
Rainfall	350 - 600 mm/yr
Altitude	0 - 2200 m
Best pH	5.5 - 7
Soil type	Light to medium soils
Row spacing	45 cm
Plant spacing	15 cm
Planting depth	2 cm
Seed rate	8 kg/ha

Simple notes for farmers

About the crop: This crop is annual; it grows and is harvested in one season. Harvest typically starts about 80-110 days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for cereal grain.

Pollination: Mainly wind; healthy flowers and pollinators improve fruit set.

Where it grows: Asia; grown in drylands. Grouped under: Cereals & Pseudocereals.

Best climate: 22 - 32 °C; 350 - 600 mm/yr; up to about 2200 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 5.5 - 7; light to medium soils.

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

Planting	Direct seed; firm seedbed; thin to spacing.
Transplanting	Not transplanted.
Irrigation	Maintain moisture during establishment and grain filling where irrigation is used.
Fertigation	Split nitrogen between planting and early vegetative growth where moisture allows.
Pest scouting	Scout Foxtail Millet for aphids, armyworms, foliar diseases, and lodging risk.
Pruning and training	No pruning needed; keep weeds low during early establishment.
Harvest	Harvest when panicles turn straw-colored.
Postharvest	Dry grain well before threshing and storage.

Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Basal	0	NPK 17-17-17	80 kg/ha	N: 18, P?O?: 46, K?O: N/A	Starter fertilizer for Foxtail Millet establishment.
2	Topdress	30	Urea	40 kg/ha	N: 26, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Topdress Foxtail Millet before rain or irrigation.

Nutrient requirements

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Basal	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	20	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	20	kg/ha
N	Topdress	20	kg/ha

Field images



Varieties

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits
Local Foxtail	KE	95	Drought tolerant
Dryland Foxtail	TZ	95	Early maturing and drought tolerant millet.

Fertilizer recommendations

Stage	Product	Rate	Notes
Basal	NPK 17-17-17	80	
Topdress	Urea 46% N	40	
Planting	DAP	100	Basal phosphorus for Foxtail Millet establishment.
Topdress	CAN	100	Nitrogen support for Foxtail Millet vegetative growth.

Pests and diseases

Name	Type	Symptoms	Management
Bird damage	pest	Panicle feeding	Scaring; netting near harvest
Aphids	pest	Sap sucking on leaves and grain heads.	Scout early, preserve beneficial insects, and control when thresholds are exceeded.
Leaf rust	disease	Rust pustules on leaves reducing grain fill.	Use tolerant varieties, rotation, and timely disease control.

Yields

System	Typical	Min	Max	Notes
rainfed smallholder	1.5	0.8	2.5	
Rainfed smallholder production	1.6	1	2.7	Typical grain yield under practical Foxtail Millet management.

Season calendars

Country	Region	Planting	Harvest
KE	Drylands	Mar–Apr	Jun–Aug
KE	Highland Grain Zones	Mar-Apr	Jul-Aug

Region suitability

Country	Region	Suitability
KE	Drylands	High
KE	Highland Grain Zones	Medium