

FarmLens Ltd

Website: farmlens.africa | App: app.farmlens.africa | Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya



Crop details

Artichoke

Cynara cardunculus var. *scolymus*

Family: Asteraceae

Categories

Vegetables

Generated: 2026-04-11 06:48

Quick stats

Family	Asteraceae
Typical harvest	10.0 t/ha
Varieties	2
Pests and diseases	2
Seasons	2

Crop profile

Growth habit	perennial
Days to harvest	180
Main uses	Immature flower buds eaten fresh, boiled, grilled, or processed.
Pollination	insect
Origin and where it grows	Best suited to cool to mild highland zones and irrigated peri-urban horticulture.

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	12 - 24 °C
Rainfall	600 - 850 mm/yr
Altitude	1200 - 2800 m
Best pH	6.4 - 7.2
Soil type	Deep, fertile, well-drained loam with strong organic matter content.
Row spacing	120 cm
Plant spacing	90 cm
Planting depth	3 cm
Seed rate	2.5 kg/ha
Nursery days	35

Simple notes for farmers

About the crop: This crop is perennial; once planted it can keep producing for many years. Harvest typically starts about 180 days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for immature flower buds eaten fresh, boiled, grilled, or processed..

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

Where it grows: Best suited to cool to mild highland zones and irrigated peri-urban horticulture.. Grouped under: Vegetables.

Best climate: 12 - 24 °C; 600 - 850 mm/yr; up to about 2800 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 6.4 - 7.2; deep, fertile, well-drained loam with strong organic matter content..

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<u>Planting</u>	Raise seedlings in trays or nursery beds and transplant into manured fields when temperatures are mild.
<u>Transplanting</u>	Harden seedlings before transplanting and irrigate immediately after planting.
<u>Irrigation</u>	Maintain even moisture through vegetative growth and bud initiation.
<u>Fertigation</u>	Feed moderate nitrogen early, then balance with potassium once buds start forming.
<u>Pest scouting</u>	Scout for aphids, cutworms, bud damage and leaf spots weekly.
<u>Pruning and training</u>	Remove weak side shoots and old leaves to keep the canopy open.
<u>Harvest</u>	Harvest tight immature buds before bracts spread open.
<u>Postharvest</u>	Cool quickly, trim stems neatly and store under cool humid conditions.

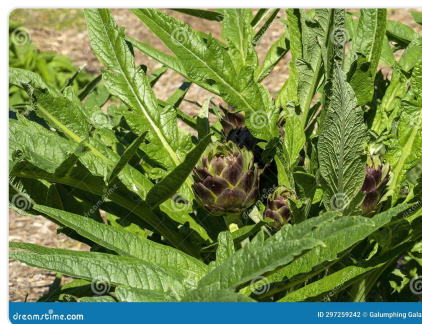
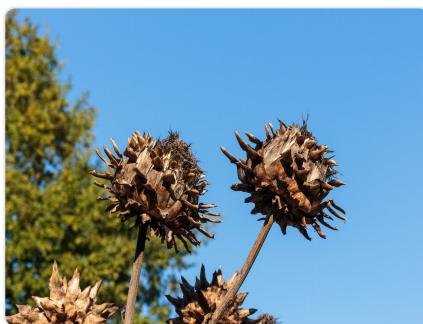
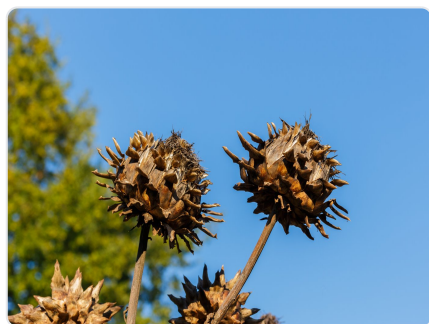
Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Basal	0	NPK 17-17-17	250 kg/ha	N: 42.5, P ₂ O ₅ : 42.5, K ₂ O: 42.5	Band away from roots during transplanting.
2	Bud development	60	CAN	150 kg/ha	N: 39, P ₂ O ₅ : N/A, K ₂ O: N/A	Topdress when canopy is established.

Nutrient requirements

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Basal	50	kg/ha
P ₂ O ₅	Basal	40	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Bud_development	40	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Bud_development	40	kg/ha

Field images



Varieties

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits
------	---------	-----------------	--------

Green Globe	KE	180	Large globe buds for fresh market.
Imperial Star	TZ	160	Earlier type for mild climates.

Fertilizer recommendations

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Basal	Well-rotted manure	8000	Incorporate thoroughly before planting.
Bud development	CAN	150	Split into two light topdressings if needed.

Pests and diseases

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Aphids	pest	Colonies on tender shoots and sticky honeydew on leaves and buds.	Promote beneficial insects and use selective control where pressure is high.
Botrytis bud rot	disease	Brown soft rot on buds under cool humid conditions.	Improve airflow, avoid overhead irrigation and remove infected buds.

Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Irrigated smallholder vegetable production	10	6	15	Marketable immature buds under moderate management.

Season calendars

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
KE	Central Highlands	Feb-Mar or Aug-Sep	Jun-Aug or Dec-Jan
UG	South-Western Highlands	Mar-Apr	Aug-Oct

Region suitability

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Central Highlands	Medium

Source: **FarmLens Ltd** - farmlens.africa and app.farmlens.africa. Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya. This guide was generated from the FarmLens database.