

FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

Asparagus

Asparagus officinalis

Family: Asparagaceae

Categories

Vegetables

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Quick stats

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Family | Asparagaceae |
| Typical harvest | 5.0 t/ha |
| Varieties | 2 |
| Pests and diseases | 2 |
| Seasons | 2 |

Crop profile

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Growth habit | perennial |
| Days to harvest | 240 |
| Main uses | Tender spears consumed fresh, steamed, grilled, or processed. |
| Pollination | insect |
| Origin and where it grows | Suitable for cool to warm dry highland areas with irrigation and good drainage. |

Weather, soil and spacing

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Best temperature | 18 - 28 °C |
| Rainfall | 500 - 700 mm/yr |
| Altitude | 600 - 2500 m |
| Best pH | 6.5 - 7.4 |
| Soil type | Deep sandy loam to loam with excellent drainage and low compaction. |
| Row spacing | 150 cm |
| Plant spacing | 35 cm |
| Planting depth | 20 cm |
| Seed rate | 4 kg/ha |
| Nursery days | 90 |

Simple notes for farmers

About the crop: This crop is perennial; once planted it can keep producing for many years. Harvest typically starts about 240 days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for tender spears consumed fresh, steamed, grilled, or processed..

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

Where it grows: Suitable for cool to warm dry highland areas with irrigation and good drainage.. Grouped under: Vegetables.

Best climate: 18 - 28 °C; 500 - 700 mm/yr; up to about 2500 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 6.5 - 7.4; deep sandy loam to loam with excellent drainage and low compaction..

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <u>Planting</u> | Establish from crowns or strong nursery seedlings in raised furrows enriched with manure. |
| <u>Transplanting</u> | Set crowns deep, spread roots well and cover gradually as shoots emerge. |
| <u>Irrigation</u> | Irrigate consistently during establishment and spear flushes without saturating the root zone. |
| <u>Fertigation</u> | Apply nitrogen after each flush and maintain potassium to support fern growth. |
| <u>Pest scouting</u> | Inspect for cutworms, beetles, rust and Fusarium symptoms in crowns and ferns. |
| <u>Pruning and training</u> | Allow healthy fern growth after harvest to rebuild root reserves. |
| <u>Harvest</u> | Cut spears at 18-22 cm while tips remain tight and before fibrous growth begins. |
| <u>Postharvest</u> | Hydrocool or chill quickly and keep bunches upright under cool storage. |

Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

| # | Stage | DAP | Product | Rate | Targets (kg/ha) | Notes |
|---|---------------------|-----|---------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Basal | 0 | DAP | 200 kg/ha | N: 36, P?O?: 92, K?O: N/A | Place below and beside crowns. |
| 2 | After harvest flush | 120 | CAN | 150 kg/ha | N: 39, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A | Apply after spear cutting period. |

Nutrient requirements

| Nutrient | Stage | Amount | Unit |
|----------|---------------------|--------|-------|
| N | Basal | 40 | kg/ha |
| P?O? | Basal | 50 | kg/ha |
| K?O | Basal | 80 | kg/ha |
| N | After_harvest_flush | 50 | kg/ha |
| K?O | After_harvest_flush | 40 | kg/ha |

Field images



Varieties

| Name | Country | Maturity (days) | Traits |
|-----------------|---------|-----------------|--|
| Mary Washington | KE | 240 | Adapted open-pollinated standard type. |

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Country</u> | <u>Maturity (days)</u> | <u>Traits</u> |
|-------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| UC 157 | UG | 220 | Productive green spear cultivar. |

Fertilizer recommendations

| <u>Stage</u> | <u>Product</u> | <u>Rate</u> | <u>Notes</u> |
|---------------|--------------------|-------------|--|
| Basal | Well-rotted manure | 10000 | Deeply incorporate into beds or furrows. |
| Fern regrowth | CAN | 150 | Topdress after harvest flush. |

Pests and diseases

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Type</u> | <u>Symptoms</u> | <u>Management</u> |
|----------------|-------------|--|---|
| Cutworms | pest | Young shoots cut near the soil surface. | Keep fields clean, monitor at dusk and protect new plantings where needed. |
| Asparagus rust | disease | Orange-brown pustules on ferns leading to weak crowns. | Use clean fields, improve airflow and remove heavily infected fern residue. |

Yields

| <u>System</u> | <u>Typical</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>Max</u> | <u>Notes</u> |
|-----------------------------|----------------|------------|------------|--|
| Established irrigated field | 5 | 3 | 8 | Marketable spear yield after full stand establishment. |

Season calendars

| <u>Country</u> | <u>Region</u> | <u>Planting</u> | <u>Harvest</u> |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|
| KE | Upper Midlands | Mar-Apr or Sep-Oct | From year 2 onward in cool months |
| TZ | Northern Highlands | Nov-Dec | From year 2 onward after establishment |

Region suitability

| <u>Country</u> | <u>Region</u> | <u>Suitability</u> |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| KE | Upper Midlands | Medium |

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