

FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

African eggplant (garden egg)

Solanum aethiopicum

Family: Solanaceae

Categories

Vegetables

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Quick stats

Family	Solanaceae
Typical harvest	15.0 t/ha
Varieties	2
Pests and diseases	5
Seasons	2

Crop profile

Growth habit	annual
Days to harvest	90-140
Main uses	Fruit vegetable
Pollination	insect
Origin and where it grows	Africa; widely grown

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	20 - 30 °C
Rainfall	700 - 1200 mm/yr
Altitude	0 - 1800 m
Best pH	6 - 7
Soil type	Fertile loam; good drainage
Row spacing	90 cm
Plant spacing	60 cm
Planting depth	1 cm
Seed rate	0.5 kg/ha
Nursery days	30

Simple notes for farmers

About the crop: This crop is annual; it grows and is harvested in one season. Harvest typically starts about 90-140 days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for fruit vegetable.

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

Where it grows: Africa; widely grown. Grouped under: Vegetables.

Best climate: 20 - 30 °C; 700 - 1200 mm/yr; up to about 1800 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 6 - 7; fertile loam; good drainage.

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<u>Planting</u>	Raise seedlings in nursery and transplant at 4-6 true leaves.
<u>Transplanting</u>	Harden seedlings for 5-7 days before transplanting.
<u>Irrigation</u>	Keep soil evenly moist, especially at flowering and fruit set.
<u>Fertigation</u>	Split nitrogen applications and increase potassium during fruiting.
<u>Pest scouting</u>	Scout weekly for aphids, whiteflies, thrips, mites, and fruit borers.
<u>Pruning and training</u>	Stake in windy fields and remove diseased lower leaves.
<u>Harvest</u>	Harvest fruits glossy and firm at 2-4 day intervals.
<u>Postharvest</u>	Handle gently; keep shaded and avoid chilling injury.

Field images



Varieties

<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Maturity (days)</u>	<u>Traits</u>
Nakati type	UG	100	Uniform fruits and steady harvest
Gilo type	KE	95	Round fruits with good market acceptance

Fertilizer recommendations

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Basal	DAP 18-46-0	90	Apply and mix into planting line before transplanting
Early vegetative	CAN 26% N	80	Apply 2-3 weeks after transplanting
Flowering to fruit set	NPK 17-17-17	100	Split into 2 applications under irrigation
Fruiting	SOP (50% K2O)	60	Support fruit fill and quality

Pests and diseases

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Whiteflies	pest	Leaf yellowing, honeydew, sooty mold	Field sanitation, yellow sticky traps, and targeted sprays
Aphids	pest	Curled leaves and stunted shoots	Control weeds, conserve beneficials, and use selective sprays

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Fruit and shoot borer	pest	Bored shoots/fruits with frass	Remove infested shoots/fruits and rotate insecticide modes of action
Bacterial wilt	disease	Sudden wilting and vascular browning	Use clean seedlings, rotate with non-solanaceous crops, improve drainage
Phomopsis blight/fruit rot	disease	Leaf lesions and sunken fruit spots	Use disease-free seed, prune for airflow, apply registered fungicides

Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
rainfed smallholder	12	8	20	
open-field irrigated	18	12	28	

Season calendars

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
KE	Eastern	Oct-Nov	Jan-Mar
KE	Central	Mar-May / Oct-Nov	Jun-Sep / Jan-Mar

Region suitability

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Central	High
KE	Coastal	High
KE	Eastern	Medium

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