

FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

Avocado

Persea americana

Family: Lauraceae

Categories

Fruits & Nuts

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Quick stats

Family	Lauraceae
Typical harvest	12.3 t/ha
Varieties	48
Pests and diseases	112
Seasons	48

Crop profile

Growth habit	tree
Days to harvest	365
Main uses	Fruits eaten fresh with meals, in salads, sandwiches, juice and guacamole; also used for oil and animal feed from rejects.
Pollination	insect
Origin and where it grows	Avocado (parachichi) is widely grown in cool to warm mid-altitude areas of East Africa, especially around homesteads and in commercial orchards.

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	16 - 26 °C
Rainfall	900 - 1400 mm/yr
Altitude	1000 - 2400 m
Best pH	6 - 6.8
Soil type	Deep, well-drained loam or sandy loam rich in organic matter. Avocado (parachichi) roots need plenty of air and do best where water moves through the profile.
Row spacing	700 cm
Plant spacing	700 cm
Seed rate	kg/ha (check local recommendation)
Nursery days	270

Simple notes for farmers

About the crop: This crop has a growth habit described as "tree". Harvest typically starts about 365 days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for fruits eaten fresh with meals, in salads, sandwiches, juice and guacamole; also used for oil and animal feed from rejects..

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

Where it grows: Avocado (parachichi) is widely grown in cool to warm mid-altitude areas of East Africa, especially around homesteads and in commercial orchards.. Grouped under: Fruits & Nuts.

Best climate: 16 - 26 °C; 900 - 1400 mm/yr; up to about 2400 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 6 - 6.8; deep, well-drained loam or sandy loam rich in organic matter. avocado (parachichi) roots need plenty of air and do best where water moves through the profile..

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<u>Planting</u>	Plant Avocado (parachichi) at the start of rains. Dig wide holes, mix topsoil with manure and refill partly. Plant the grafted seedling at the same depth as in the nursery bag and keep the graft union above the soil.
<u>Transplanting</u>	Use healthy, grafted seedlings. Remove the polythene carefully, avoid twisting roots and water immediately after planting.
<u>Irrigation</u>	Young trees need regular watering, especially during dry spells. For bearing trees, avoid long drought at flowering and early fruit growth, but do not overwater heavy soils.
<u>Fertigation</u>	With drip, split fertilizer into many small applications. Apply more nitrogen when trees are flushing and more potassium during fruit development. Avoid heavy N just before flowering.
<u>Pest scouting</u>	Inspect trees every 2–3 weeks for fruit flies, thrips, mites and diseases on flowers, young leaves and fruits. Look for scars, spots and rotting areas.
<u>Pruning and training</u>	Train Avocado (parachichi) to a strong central framework with 3–4 main branches. Remove very low, crossing or broken branches and thin the canopy lightly to let in light and air.
<u>Harvest</u>	Harvest fruits when they reach full size and skin colour typical of the variety. Fruits ripen off the tree after picking. Do not pull roughly; clip or twist gently.
<u>Postharvest</u>	Handle carefully to avoid bruising. Keep fruits in shade, not direct sun. Store on clean crates and avoid piling fruits too high. Cool storage extends shelf life where available.

Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Basal at planting	0	Well-rotted manure + small P fertilizer (e.g., DAP 18-46-0)	10 kg/tree manure + 100 g DAP	N: 0, P?O?: 0, K?O: 0	Mix manure with topsoil in the planting hole. Keep fertilizer away from the stem and main roots.
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3	Pre-flowering feed	365	NPK 17-17-17 or 10-20-20	250 g/tree	N: 0, P?O?: 0, K?O: 0	Apply at the start of rains before main flowering; do not overdo nitrogen.
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4	Fruit development high K	420	Sulfate of potash (SOP) or high-K NPK	250 g/tree	N: 0, P?O?: 0, K?O: 0	Improves fruit size, oil content and shelf life of Avocado (parachichi).
4	Fruit development high K	420	Sulfate of potash (SOP) or high-K NPK	250 g/tree	N: 0, P?O?: 0, K?O: 0	Improves fruit size, oil content and shelf life of Avocado (parachichi).
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Nutrient requirements

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Establishment	25	kg/ha

<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>
P?O?	Establishment	25	kg/ha
K?O	Establishment	25	kg/ha
N	Vegetative	50	kg/ha
P?O?	Vegetative	20	kg/ha
K?O	Vegetative	40	kg/ha
N	Bearing_maintenance	60	kg/ha
P?O?	Bearing_maintenance	25	kg/ha
K?O	Bearing_maintenance	80	kg/ha
N	Establishment	25	kg/ha
P?O?	Establishment	25	kg/ha
K?O	Establishment	25	kg/ha
N	Vegetative	50	kg/ha
P?O?	Vegetative	20	kg/ha
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P?O?	Establishment	25	kg/ha
K?O	Establishment	25	kg/ha
N	Vegetative	50	kg/ha

<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>
P?O?	Vegetative	20	kg/ha
K?O	Vegetative	40	kg/ha
N	Bearing_maintenance	60	kg/ha
P?O?	Bearing_maintenance	25	kg/ha
K?O	Bearing_maintenance	80	kg/ha
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P?O?	Establishment	25	kg/ha
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P?O?	Vegetative	20	kg/ha
K?O	Vegetative	40	kg/ha
N	Bearing_maintenance	60	kg/ha

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P?O?	Bearing_maintenance	25	kg/ha
K?O	Bearing_maintenance	80	kg/ha
N	Establishment	25	kg/ha
P?O?	Establishment	25	kg/ha
K?O	Establishment	25	kg/ha
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P?O?	Vegetative	20	kg/ha
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N	Bearing_maintenance	60	kg/ha
P?O?	Bearing_maintenance	25	kg/ha
K?O	Bearing_maintenance	80	kg/ha

Field images



Varieties

<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Maturity (days)</u>	<u>Traits</u>
Hass	KE	300	Small to medium, darkening skin, high oil content and good keeping quality; common export variety.
Fuerte	KE	280	Pear-shaped green fruit with good flavour; used for fresh local markets.
Local Avocado (parachichi)	KE	280	Larger fruits, variable seed size and taste, widely grown around homesteads.
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Fertilizer recommendations

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Basal (planting)	Well-rotted farmyard manure	10000	Apply in the planting hole and along the future root zone.
Young trees	CAN 26% N	50	Split into 2–3 small doses per year to encourage strong early growth.
Bearing trees base feed	NPK 17-17-17 or similar	150	Applied each year, often at the start of rains.
Fruit quality	Sulfate of potash (SOP) or high-K blend	80	Given around fruit set to support oil content and firmness.
Basal (planting)	Well-rotted farmyard manure	10000	Apply in the planting hole and along the future root zone.
Young trees	CAN 26% N	50	Split into 2–3 small doses per year to encourage strong early growth.
Bearing trees base feed	NPK 17-17-17 or similar	150	Applied each year, often at the start of rains.
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Pests and diseases

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Fruit flies	pest	Stings and small spots on Avocado fruits, leading to rotting and drop before harvest.	Collect and destroy fallen fruits, use bait traps and harvest promptly when fruits are mature.
False codling moth / other fruit borers	pest	Entry holes and tunneling inside fruits, internal rots and early drop.	Field sanitation, removal of infested fruits and use of recommended control products where needed.
Thrips	pest	Scarring and rough patches on fruit skin, especially around the stalk and shoulders; distorted young leaves.	Monitor during flowering and early fruit set and apply selective insecticides or biopesticides if damage is high.
Mites	pest	Brown or bronzed leaves, fine webbing and leaf drop on stressed trees.	Avoid dust, keep trees healthy with adequate water and nutrients and use specific miticides or biopesticides when necessary.
Root rot (Phytophthora)	disease	Yellowing leaves, twig dieback, poor growth and root decay; trees may suddenly wilt and die, especially in wet soils.	Plant on well-drained soils, avoid waterlogging and heavy compaction, and use tolerant rootstocks where available.
Anthrachnose and stem-end rots	disease	Dark, sunken spots on ripening fruits, often starting at the stem end.	Prune for good airflow, avoid wetting fruits late in the day and use recommended fungicides as needed.
Scab and leaf spots	disease	Rough, corky spots on fruits and lesions on leaves and twigs.	Use tolerant varieties, prune dense canopies and apply fungicides when disease pressure is high.

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Root rot (Phytophthora)	disease	Yellowing leaves, twig dieback, poor growth and root decay; trees may suddenly wilt and die, especially in wet soils.	Plant on well-drained soils, avoid waterlogging and heavy compaction, and use tolerant rootstocks where available.
Anthracnose and stem-end rots	disease	Dark, sunken spots on ripening fruits, often starting at the stem end.	Prune for good airflow, avoid wetting fruits late in the day and use recommended fungicides as needed.
Scab and leaf spots	disease	Rough, corky spots on fruits and lesions on leaves and twigs.	Use tolerant varieties, prune dense canopies and apply fungicides when disease pressure is high.

Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Scattered homestead Avocado (parachichi) trees	5	3	8	Little pruning or fertilizer; 50–150 kg fruit per mature tree is common.
Managed smallholder orchard	12	7	18	Improved varieties, some pruning, manure and fertilizer, basic pest and disease control.

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Intensive / export Avocado orchard	20	15	25	High-density planting, drip irrigation, fertigation and well-planned canopy and pest management.
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Season calendars

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
KE	Central and Rift Valley Avocado (parachichi) belt	Start of long rains (Mar–Apr) or short rains (Oct–Nov).	Main harvest in the dry months following rains, depending on variety.
KE	Highland smallholder Avocado zones	Early rains on deep, well-drained soils.	Varies with altitude and variety; often once or twice a year.
TZ	Northern and southern highland Avocado areas	Start of main rains.	Dry season following the main rains.
KE	Central and Rift Valley Avocado (parachichi) belt	Start of long rains (Mar–Apr) or short rains (Oct–Nov).	Main harvest in the dry months following rains, depending on variety.

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Region suitability

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Central and Rift Valley highlands (Avocado belt)	High

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Upper mid-altitude zones with deep, well-drained soils	High
TZ	Northern and southern highlands	High
UG	Highland and mid-altitude smallholder Avocado zones	High

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