

FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

Arrowroot

Maranta arundinacea

Family: Marantaceae

Categories

Roots & Tubers

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Quick stats

Family	Marantaceae
Typical harvest	15.0 t/ha
Varieties	1
Pests and diseases	3
Seasons	1

Crop profile

Growth habit	perennial
Days to harvest	240-360
Main uses	Starch root
Pollination	insect
Origin and where it grows	Tropics

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	22 - 30 °C
Rainfall	1400 - 2200 mm/yr
Altitude	0 - 1600 m
Best pH	5.5 - 6.8
Soil type	Deep loam; moist
Row spacing	100 cm
Plant spacing	60 cm
Planting depth	6 cm
Seed rate	1500 kg/ha

Simple notes for farmers

About the crop: This crop is perennial; once planted it can keep producing for many years. Harvest typically starts about 240-360 days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for starch root.

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

Where it grows: Tropics. Grouped under: Roots & Tubers.

Best climate: 22 - 30 °C; 1400 - 2200 mm/yr; up to about 1600 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 5.5 - 6.8; deep loam; moist.

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<u>Planting</u>	Plant healthy rhizome setts in well-prepared moist beds; maintain mulch to conserve moisture.
<u>Transplanting</u>	Not typically transplanted; use setts directly.
<u>Irrigation</u>	Requires consistent moisture; maintain evenly moist soil, avoid stagnation.
<u>Fertigation</u>	If under drip, provide small N/K feedings during rapid growth.
<u>Pest scouting</u>	Scout for weevils and leaf spots; ensure sanitation and rotation.
<u>Pruning and training</u>	Remove senescent leaves to reduce disease pressure.
<u>Harvest</u>	Harvest 8–12 months after planting when leaves begin to yellow; lift carefully to avoid breakage.
<u>Postharvest</u>	Cure briefly in shade; store cool and dry; process promptly for starch.

Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Basal	0	NPK 12-24-12	150 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
2	Topdress	60	CAN 26% N	120 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Irrigate after application

Nutrient requirements

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Topdress	40	kg/ha

Field images



Varieties

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits
Local Arrowroot	KE	300	High starch

Fertilizer recommendations

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Basal	NPK 12-24-12	150	
Topdress	CAN 26% N	120	Split if soils are light

Pests and diseases

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Weevils	pest	Root damage	Clean seed pieces; sanitation
Leaf spots	disease	Spots on foliage	Improve airflow; avoid overhead irrigation; use protectants if needed
Root rots	disease	Wilting; root decay	Avoid waterlogging; rotate; use healthy planting material

Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
rainfed	15	8	25	

Season calendars

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
KE	Humid lowlands	Mar–Apr	Oct–Jan

Region suitability

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Humid lowlands	High
KE	Riverine/irrigated zones	High
KE	Sub-humid zones	Medium

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