

# FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

## Chili

*Capsicum frutescens*

Family: Solanaceae

Categories

Vegetables

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### Quick stats

<b>Family</b>	Solanaceae
<b>Typical harvest</b>	15.3 t/ha
<b>Varieties</b>	48
<b>Pests and diseases</b>	128
<b>Seasons</b>	48

### Crop profile

<b>Growth habit</b>	annual
<b>Days to harvest</b>	140
<b>Main uses</b>	Fresh green and dry red Chili (pilipili) used for cooking, sauces, spice, pickles and chilli powder.
<b>Pollination</b>	self
<b>Origin and where it grows</b>	Chili (pilipili) is widely grown in warm and moderately dry areas of East Africa, both under rainfed and irrigated conditions.

### Weather, soil and spacing

<b>Best temperature</b>	20 - 30 °C
<b>Rainfall</b>	700 - 1000 mm/yr
<b>Altitude</b>	0 - 1800 m
<b>Best pH</b>	6 - 6.8
<b>Soil type</b>	Well-drained loam or sandy loam with good organic matter. Chili (pilipili) does not like heavy, waterlogged soils.
<b>Row spacing</b>	60 cm
<b>Plant spacing</b>	40 cm
<b>Planting depth</b>	1.5 cm
<b>Seed rate</b>	0.3 kg/ha
<b>Nursery days</b>	30

### Simple notes for farmers

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

**Main use:** Farmers mostly grow this crop for fresh green and dry red chili (pilipili) used for cooking, sauces, spice, pickles and chilli powder..

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

**Where it grows:** Chili (pilipili) is widely grown in warm and moderately dry areas of East Africa, both under rainfed and irrigated conditions.. Grouped under: Vegetables.





#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
2	Early topdress	21	CAN 26% N	100 kg/ha	N: 26, P?O?: 0, K?O: 0	Apply between rows of Chili (pilipili) on moist soil, then irrigate or lightly incorporate.
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3	Fruiting topdress (N + K)	40	NPK 12-6-24 or urea + SOP/MOP	150 kg/ha	N: 18, P?O?: 9, K?O: 36	Supports flowering and fruit filling in Chili (pilipili); avoid very late heavy nitrogen.
3	Fruiting topdress (N + K)	40	NPK 12-6-24 or urea + SOP/MOP	150 kg/ha	N: 18, P?O?: 9, K?O: 36	Supports flowering and fruit filling in Chili (pilipili); avoid very late heavy nitrogen.
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3	Fruiting topdress (N + K)	40	NPK 12-6-24 or urea + SOP/MOP	150 kg/ha	N: 18, P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> : 9, K <sub>2</sub> O: 36	Supports flowering and fruit filling in Chili (pilipili); avoid very late heavy nitrogen.
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### **Nutrient requirements**

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Basal	50	kg/ha
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Basal	60	kg/ha
K <sub>2</sub> O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
K <sub>2</sub> O	Topdress_early	30	kg/ha
N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K <sub>2</sub> O	Topdress_fruiting	60	kg/ha
N	Basal	50	kg/ha
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Basal	60	kg/ha
K <sub>2</sub> O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
K <sub>2</sub> O	Topdress_early	30	kg/ha
N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K <sub>2</sub> O	Topdress_fruiting	60	kg/ha
N	Basal	50	kg/ha
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Basal	60	kg/ha
K <sub>2</sub> O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha

<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>
P?O?	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_early	30	kg/ha
N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_fruiting	60	kg/ha
N	Basal	50	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	60	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_early	30	kg/ha
N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_fruiting	60	kg/ha
N	Basal	50	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	60	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_early	30	kg/ha
N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_fruiting	60	kg/ha
N	Basal	50	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	60	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_early	30	kg/ha
N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha

<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_fruiting	60	kg/ha
N	Basal	50	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	60	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_early	30	kg/ha
N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_fruiting	60	kg/ha
N	Basal	50	kg/ha
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N	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
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N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_fruiting	60	kg/ha
N	Basal	50	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	60	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_early	30	kg/ha
N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_fruiting	60	kg/ha
N	Basal	50	kg/ha

<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>
P?O?	Basal	60	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_early	30	kg/ha
N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_fruiting	60	kg/ha
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K?O	Topdress_fruiting	60	kg/ha
N	Basal	50	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	60	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha

<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>
P?O?	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_early	30	kg/ha
N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_fruiting	60	kg/ha
N	Basal	50	kg/ha
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N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_fruiting	60	kg/ha
N	Basal	50	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	60	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_early	30	kg/ha
N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha

<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_fruiting	60	kg/ha

## Field images



## Varieties

<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Maturity (days)</u>	<u>Traits</u>
Hot bird's eye Chili (pilipili kali)	KE	130	Very hot small fruits, suitable for fresh and dry spice markets.
Medium-hot long Chili (pilipili hoho)	KE	120	Long fruits, good for fresh use and drying.
Hybrid export-type Chili (pilipili)	TZ	130	High yield, uniform fruits suitable for fresh export and drying.
Hot bird's eye Chili (pilipili kali)	KE	130	Very hot small fruits, suitable for fresh and dry spice markets.
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## **Fertilizer recommendations**

<b><u>Stage</u></b>	<b><u>Product</u></b>	<b><u>Rate</u></b>	<b><u>Notes</u></b>
Basal	NPK 17-17-17 or 15-15-15	250	Provides balanced nutrients for early Chili (pilipili) growth.
Topdress (N source)	CAN 26% N or urea	100	Apply once or twice during vegetative growth.
Topdress (K source)	Sulfate of potash (SOP) or high-K NPK	100	Improves fruit size, colour and shelf life of Chili (pilipili).
Organic	Well-rotted farmyard manure or compost	8000	Apply before transplanting to improve soil structure and water holding.
Basal	NPK 17-17-17 or 15-15-15	250	Provides balanced nutrients for early Chili (pilipili) growth.
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Basal	NPK 17-17-17 or 15-15-15	250	Provides balanced nutrients for early Chili (pilipili) growth.
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Topdress (K source)	Sulfate of potash (SOP) or high-K NPK	100	Improves fruit size, colour and shelf life of Chili (pilipili).
Organic	Well-rotted farmyard manure or compost	8000	Apply before transplanting to improve soil structure and water holding.
Basal	NPK 17-17-17 or 15-15-15	250	Provides balanced nutrients for early Chili (pilipili) growth.
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## **Pests and diseases**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Aphids	pest	Clusters of small insects on Chili (pilipili) shoots and leaf undersides, curled leaves, sticky honeydew and sooty mould.	Encourage natural enemies, control ants, and use selective insecticides or biopesticides when numbers increase.
Thrips	pest	Silvery streaks and small brown spots on Chili (pilipili) leaves and fruits, distorted tips and scabby fruits.	Reduce weeds, use blue or yellow sticky traps and apply targeted insecticides/biopesticides based on scouting.
Whiteflies	pest	Small white insects that fly when Chili (pilipili) plants are touched, honeydew, leaf yellowing and virus transmission.	Use yellow sticky traps, remove heavily infected plants and apply selective products when needed.
Fruit borers / bollworms	pest	Holes in Chili (pilipili) fruits, internal feeding by caterpillars, rotting fruits and fruit drop.	Collect and destroy infested fruits, use pheromone traps where available and apply recommended insecticides early.
Red spider mites	pest	Fine webbing on Chili (pilipili) leaves, yellowing, speckling and leaf drop in hot, dry conditions.	Avoid dusty conditions, conserve natural enemies and use acaricides/biopesticides when mite numbers build up.
Anthracnose	disease	Sunken dark spots on Chili (pilipili) fruits, often with pinkish spore masses, leading to rots on plant and in storage.	Use clean seed, avoid overhead irrigation late in the day, harvest carefully and use fungicides when pressure is high.
Bacterial leaf spot and wilts	disease	Spots on leaves and fruits, wilting and drying of branches in Chili (pilipili).	Rotate crops, avoid working in fields when wet and remove severely affected plants early.
Viral diseases (mosaics, leaf curl)	disease	Mottled, curled and twisted leaves, stunting and poor fruit set in Chili (pilipili).	Use healthy seedlings, control aphids and whiteflies and rogue infected plants as soon as they appear.
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<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Whiteflies	pest	Small white insects that fly when Chili (pilipili) plants are touched, honeydew, leaf yellowing and virus transmission.	Use yellow sticky traps, remove heavily infected plants and apply selective products when needed.
Fruit borers / bollworms	pest	Holes in Chili (pilipili) fruits, internal feeding by caterpillars, rotting fruits and fruit drop.	Collect and destroy infested fruits, use pheromone traps where available and apply recommended insecticides early.
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<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Bacterial leaf spot and wilts	disease	Spots on leaves and fruits, wilting and drying of branches in Chili (pilipili).	Rotate crops, avoid working in fields when wet and remove severely affected plants early.
Viral diseases (mosaics, leaf curl)	disease	Mottled, curled and twisted leaves, stunting and poor fruit set in Chili (pilipili).	Use healthy seedlings, control aphids and whiteflies and rogue infected plants as soon as they appear.
Aphids	pest	Clusters of small insects on Chili (pilipili) shoots and leaf undersides, curled leaves, sticky honeydew and sooty mould.	Encourage natural enemies, control ants, and use selective insecticides or biopesticides when numbers increase.
Thrips	pest	Silvery streaks and small brown spots on Chili (pilipili) leaves and fruits, distorted tips and scabby fruits.	Reduce weeds, use blue or yellow sticky traps and apply targeted insecticides/biopesticides based on scouting.
Whiteflies	pest	Small white insects that fly when Chili (pilipili) plants are touched, honeydew, leaf yellowing and virus transmission.	Use yellow sticky traps, remove heavily infected plants and apply selective products when needed.
Fruit borers / bollworms	pest	Holes in Chili (pilipili) fruits, internal feeding by caterpillars, rotting fruits and fruit drop.	Collect and destroy infested fruits, use pheromone traps where available and apply recommended insecticides early.
Red spider mites	pest	Fine webbing on Chili (pilipili) leaves, yellowing, speckling and leaf drop in hot, dry conditions.	Avoid dusty conditions, conserve natural enemies and use acaricides/biopesticides when mite numbers build up.
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## Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Open-field Chili (pilipili), low input	4	2	6	Local varieties, little fertilizer and basic pest control. Green + dry fruit combined (fresh weight).
Open-field Chili (pilipili), improved management	12	8	18	Improved/hybrid varieties, recommended fertilizer, regular picking and pest management.
Irrigated net-house / intensive Chili (pilipili)	30	20	40	Protected or intensively managed crop with drip, fertigation and strong pest control.
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### **Season calendars**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Planting</b>	<b>Harvest</b>
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KE	Warm low to mid-altitude Chili (pilipili) zones (rainfed, long rains)	Mar–Apr	Jun–Sep (multiple pickings)
KE	Short-rains Chili (pilipili) season	Oct–Nov	Jan–Mar
TZ	Irrigated and peri-urban Chili (pilipili) belts	Most months with reliable irrigation	Continuous pickings over several months
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### **Region suitability**

<b><u>Country</u></b>	<b><u>Region</u></b>	<b><u>Suitability</u></b>
KE	Peri-urban irrigated Chili (pilipili) areas	High
KE	Very cool highlands prone to frost	Low
KE	Warm low to mid-altitude vegetable belts	High
TZ	Central and coastal Chili (pilipili) producing zones	High
UG	Mid-altitude vegetable-growing regions	High

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