

# FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

## Colocasia

*Colocasia esculenta*

Family: Araceae

Categories

Roots & Tubers

Generated: 2026-04-11 08:16

### Quick stats

<b>Family</b>	Araceae
<b>Typical harvest</b>	17.5 t/ha
<b>Varieties</b>	2
<b>Pests and diseases</b>	5
<b>Seasons</b>	2

### Crop profile

<b>Growth habit</b>	perennial
<b>Days to harvest</b>	180-300
<b>Main uses</b>	Root/tuber; leaves vegetable
<b>Pollination</b>	insect
<b>Origin and where it grows</b>	Wet tropics

### Weather, soil and spacing

<b>Best temperature</b>	21 - 28 °C
<b>Rainfall</b>	1500 - 2500 mm/yr
<b>Altitude</b>	0 - 2000 m
<b>Best pH</b>	5.8 - 6.5
<b>Soil type</b>	Deep loam; moist
<b>Row spacing</b>	100 cm
<b>Plant spacing</b>	75 cm
<b>Planting depth</b>	8 cm
<b>Seed rate</b>	1000 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 180-300 days after planting.

**Main use:** Farmers mostly grow this crop for root/tuber; leaves vegetable.

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

**Where it grows:** Wet tropics. Grouped under: Roots & Tubers.

**Best climate:** 21 - 28 °C; 1500 - 2500 mm/yr; up to about 2000 m a.s.l.

**Soil:** Best at pH 5.8 - 6.5; deep loam; moist.

### Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<b><u>Planting</u></b>	Use healthy corm setts/cormels. Raised beds or ridges. Keep soil moist and weed early; mulch.
<b><u>Transplanting</u></b>	Vegetative planting; handle setts gently to avoid rot.
<b><u>Irrigation</u></b>	Keep evenly moist; frequent light irrigation in dry spells.
<b><u>Fertigation</u></b>	Split N into small doses during vegetative growth under irrigation.
<b><u>Pest scouting</u></b>	Monitor for taro leaf blight and corm rots; remove infected leaves.
<b><u>Pruning and training</u></b>	Remove old/diseased leaves; keep beds clean.
<b><u>Harvest</u></b>	Harvest at full corm size (6–10 months) when lower leaves senesce.
<b><u>Postharvest</u></b>	Cure in shade; handle gently; store cool/ventilated.

### **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	Band/broadcast and lightly incorporate
2	Topdress	60	CAN 26% N	120 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Apply on moist soil
3	Micronutrients	70	Trace mix (Zn, B)	0 —	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Foliar per label

### **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 Cocoyam	KE	240	Large corms; good leaf production
Dasheen type	UG	220	Leaves and corms edible; wetland tolerant

## 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	~60 DAP on moist soil

## Pests and diseases

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Taro leaf blight	disease	Leaf lesions	Sanitation; protectants
Taro leaf blight (Phytophthora colocasiae)	disease	Rapid foliar blight	Sanitation; spacing; resistant lines; protectants
Corm/cormel rots (Pythium/Fusarium)	disease	Soft rot; plant collapse	Healthy seed; drainage; rotation; avoid injury
Aphids	pest	Leaf curling; sooty mold	Conserve natural enemies; soft insecticides if needed
Cutworms	pest	Cut seedlings at base	Baits; sanitation; timely replanting

## Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
rainfed	15	8	25	Fresh corms
irrigated/wetland	20	12	35	Well-managed fields

## Season calendars

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
KE	Humid zones (long rains)	Mar–Apr	Sep–Dec
KE	Humid zones (short rains)	Oct–Nov	May–Aug

## Region suitability

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Arid/semi-arid uplands	Low
KE	Humid lowlands & mid-altitudes	High
KE	Humid zones	High
TZ	Coastal & wet valley bottoms	High
UG	Lake Victoria basin	High

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