FarmLens Ltd

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

Crop details

Lime

Citrus aurantiifolia

Family: Rutaceae

Categories

Fruits & Nuts

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Quick stats

Family	Rutaceae
Typical harvest	18.7 t/ha
Varieties	48
Pests and diseases	96
Seasons	48

Crop profile

Growth habit	tree
Days to harvest	365
Main uses	Fresh fruit, flavouring in food and drinks, juice, and small-scale processing.
Pollination	insect
Origin and where it grows	Lime (ndimu) is common in warm coastal and lower mid-altitude zones of East Africa, around homesteads and in small orchards.

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	20 - 30 °C
Rainfall	900 - 1400 mm/yr
Altitude	0 - 1600 m
Best pH	6 - 7
Soil type	Deep, well-drained loam or sandy loam with good organic matter. Lime (ndimu) does not like very heavy or salty soils.
Row spacing	500 cm
Plant spacing	500 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 fresh fruit, flavouring in food and drinks, juice, and small-scale processing..

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

Where it grows: Lime (ndimu) is common in warm coastal and lower mid-altitude zones of East Africa, around homesteads and in small orchards.. Grouped under: Fruits & Nuts.

Best climate: 20 - 30 °C; 900 - 1400 mm/yr; up to about 1600 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 6 - 7; deep, well-drained loam or sandy loam with good organic matter. lime (ndimu) does not like very heavy or salty soils..

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

Planting	Use clean, healthy seedlings of Lime (ndimu), preferably grafted on suitable rootstock. Plant at the start of the rains or irrigate after planting. Dig wide holes, mix topsoil with manure and a little P fertilizer and plant at the same height as in the nursery bag.
Transplanting	Avoid bending or breaking roots. Keep graft union above soil level and stake young trees if wind is strong.
Irrigation	Provide moisture during establishment, flowering and fruit filling. Avoid long dry spells at flowering and also avoid waterlogging around the trunk.
Fertigation	With drip, apply small regular doses of nitrogen and potassium through the season. Reduce heavy nitrogen late in the season to avoid very leafy growth with few fruits.
Pest scouting	Check Lime (ndimu) trees every 1–2 weeks for aphids, scales, mealybugs, leafminers, fruit flies and leaf or fruit spots. Inspect young shoots, underside of leaves and fruit surfaces.
Pruning and training	Form 3–4 main branches. Remove suckers from the rootstock, dead or crossing branches and open the canopy for light and air movement.
Harvest	Harvest when fruits are fully grown and have a smooth, glossy peel. For fresh lime, fruits may still be green outside but should be juicy inside.
Postharvest	Pick by hand, avoid pulling fruits roughly and place them gently in crates. Keep limes in shade and avoid wet, dirty containers to reduce rotting.

Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Basal at planting	0	Well-rotted manure + P fertilizer (TSP or DAP)	8 kg/hole manure + 100 g P fertilizer	N: 0, P?O?: 0, K?O: 0	Mix manure and P with topsoil in each Lime (ndimu) planting hole.
1	Basal at planting	0	Well-rotted manure + P fertilizer (TSP or DAP)	8 kg/hole manure + 100 g P fertilizer	N: 0, P?O?: 0, K?O: 0	Mix manure and P with topsoil in each Lime (ndimu) planting hole.
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2	Early growth topdress	90	CAN 26% N	120 g/tree	N: 0, P?O?: 0, K?O: 0	Apply in a ring 30–50 cm from the trunk and water in.
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2	Early growth topdress	90	CAN 26% N	120 g/tree	N: 0, P?O?: 0, K?O: 0	Apply in a ring 30–50 cm from the trunk and water in.
3	Pre-bloom NPK	240	NPK 17-17-17	200 g/tree	N: 0, P?O?: 0, K?O: 0	Supports Lime (ndimu) flowering and fruit set.
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3	Pre-bloom NPK	240	NPK 17-17-17	200 g/tree	N: 0, P?O?: 0, K?O: 0	Supports Lime (ndimu) flowering and fruit set.
4	Fruit filling high K	330	Sulfate of potash (SOP) or high-K blend	250 g/tree	N: 0, P?O?: 0, K?O: 0	Split in 1–2 dressings during Lime (ndimu) fruit enlargement.

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
4	Fruit filling high K	330	Sulfate of potash (SOP) or high-K blend	250 g/tree	N: 0, P?O?: 0, K?O: 0	Split in 1–2 dressings during Lime (ndimu) fruit enlargement.
4	Fruit filling high K	330	Sulfate of potash (SOP) or high-K blend	250 g/tree	N: 0, P?O?: 0, K?O: 0	Split in 1–2 dressings during Lime (ndimu) fruit enlargement.
4	Fruit filling high K	330	Sulfate of potash (SOP) or high-K blend	250 g/tree	N: 0, P?O?: 0, K?O: 0	Split in 1–2 dressings during Lime (ndimu) fruit enlargement.
4	Fruit filling high K	330	Sulfate of potash (SOP) or high-K blend	250 g/tree	N: 0, P?O?: 0, K?O: 0	Split in 1–2 dressings during Lime (ndimu) fruit enlargement.
4	Fruit filling high K	330	Sulfate of potash (SOP) or high-K blend	250 g/tree	N: 0, P?O?: 0, K?O: 0	Split in 1–2 dressings during Lime (ndimu) fruit enlargement.
4	Fruit filling high K	330	Sulfate of potash (SOP) or high-K blend	250 g/tree	N: 0, P?O?: 0, K?O: 0	Split in 1–2 dressings during Lime (ndimu) fruit enlargement.
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4	Fruit filling high K	330	Sulfate of potash (SOP) or high-K blend	250 g/tree	N: 0, P?O?: 0, K?O: 0	Split in 1–2 dressings during Lime (ndimu) fruit enlargement.

Nutrient requirements

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Establishment	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Establishment	25	kg/ha
K?O	Establishment	25	kg/ha
N	Vegetative	50	kg/ha
P?O?	Vegetative	10	kg/ha
K?O	Vegetative	40	kg/ha
N	Flowering_fruit_set	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Flowering_fruit_set	20	kg/ha
K?O	Flowering_fruit_set	50	kg/ha
N	Fruit_fill	10	kg/ha
P?O?	Fruit_fill	0	kg/ha
K?O	Fruit_fill	60	kg/ha
N	Establishment	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Establishment	25	kg/ha
K?O	Establishment	25	kg/ha
N	Vegetative	50	kg/ha
P?O?	Vegetative	10	kg/ha
K?O	Vegetative	40	kg/ha
N	Flowering_fruit_set	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Flowering_fruit_set	20	kg/ha
K?O	Flowering_fruit_set	50	kg/ha
N	Fruit_fill	10	kg/ha
P?O?	Fruit_fill	0	kg/ha

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
K?O	Fruit_fill	60	kg/ha
N	Establishment	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Establishment	25	kg/ha
K?O	Establishment	25	kg/ha
N	Vegetative	50	kg/ha
P?O?	Vegetative	10	kg/ha
K?O	Vegetative	40	kg/ha
N	Flowering_fruit_set	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Flowering_fruit_set	20	kg/ha
K?O	Flowering_fruit_set	50	kg/ha
N	Fruit_fill	10	kg/ha
P?O?	Fruit_fill	0	kg/ha
K?O	Fruit_fill	60	kg/ha
N	Establishment	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Establishment	25	kg/ha
K?O	Establishment	25	kg/ha
N	Vegetative	50	kg/ha
P?O?	Vegetative	10	kg/ha
K?O	Vegetative	40	kg/ha
N	Flowering_fruit_set	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Flowering_fruit_set	20	kg/ha
K?O	Flowering_fruit_set	50	kg/ha
N	Fruit_fill	10	kg/ha
P?O?	Fruit_fill	0	kg/ha
K?O	Fruit_fill	60	kg/ha
N	Establishment	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Establishment	25	kg/ha
K?O	Establishment	25	kg/ha
N	Vegetative	50	kg/ha
P?O?	Vegetative	10	kg/ha

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
K?O	Vegetative	40	kg/ha
N	Flowering_fruit_set	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Flowering_fruit_set	20	kg/ha
K?O	Flowering_fruit_set	50	kg/ha
N	Fruit_fill	10	kg/ha
P?O?	Fruit_fill	0	kg/ha
K?O	Fruit_fill	60	kg/ha
N	Establishment	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Establishment	25	kg/ha
K?O	Establishment	25	kg/ha
N	Vegetative	50	kg/ha
P?O?	Vegetative	10	kg/ha
K?O	Vegetative	40	kg/ha
N	Flowering_fruit_set	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Flowering_fruit_set	20	kg/ha
K?O	Flowering_fruit_set	50	kg/ha
N	Fruit_fill	10	kg/ha
P?O?	Fruit_fill	0	kg/ha
K?O	Fruit_fill	60	kg/ha
N	Establishment	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Establishment	25	kg/ha
K?O	Establishment	25	kg/ha
N	Vegetative	50	kg/ha
P?O?	Vegetative	10	kg/ha
K?O	Vegetative	40	kg/ha
N	Flowering_fruit_set	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Flowering_fruit_set	20	kg/ha
K?O	Flowering_fruit_set	50	kg/ha
N	Fruit_fill	10	kg/ha
P?O?	Fruit_fill	0	kg/ha

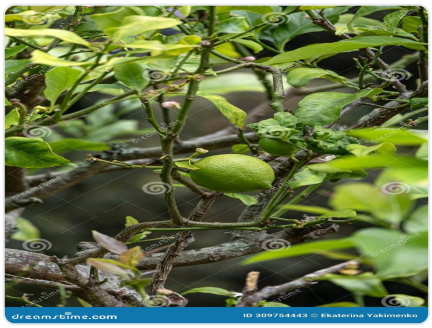
Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
K?O	Fruit_fill	60	kg/ha
N	Establishment	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Establishment	25	kg/ha
K?O	Establishment	25	kg/ha
N	Vegetative	50	kg/ha
P?O?	Vegetative	10	kg/ha
K?O	Vegetative	40	kg/ha
N	Flowering_fruit_set	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Flowering_fruit_set	20	kg/ha
K?O	Flowering_fruit_set	50	kg/ha
N	Fruit_fill	10	kg/ha
P?O?	Fruit_fill	0	kg/ha
K?O	Fruit_fill	60	kg/ha
N	Establishment	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Establishment	25	kg/ha
K?O	Establishment	25	kg/ha
N	Vegetative	50	kg/ha
P?O?	Vegetative	10	kg/ha
K?O	Vegetative	40	kg/ha
N	Flowering_fruit_set	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Flowering_fruit_set	20	kg/ha
K?O	Flowering_fruit_set	50	kg/ha
N	Fruit_fill	10	kg/ha
P?O?	Fruit_fill	0	kg/ha
K?O	Fruit_fill	60	kg/ha
N	Establishment	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Establishment	25	kg/ha
K?O	Establishment	25	kg/ha
N	Vegetative	50	kg/ha
P?O?	Vegetative	10	kg/ha

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
K?O	Vegetative	40	kg/ha
N	Flowering_fruit_set	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Flowering_fruit_set	20	kg/ha
K?O	Flowering_fruit_set	50	kg/ha
N	Fruit_fill	10	kg/ha
P?O?	Fruit_fill	0	kg/ha
K?O	Fruit_fill	60	kg/ha
N	Establishment	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Establishment	25	kg/ha
K?O	Establishment	25	kg/ha
N	Vegetative	50	kg/ha
P?O?	Vegetative	10	kg/ha
K?O	Vegetative	40	kg/ha
N	Flowering_fruit_set	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Flowering_fruit_set	20	kg/ha
K?O	Flowering_fruit_set	50	kg/ha
N	Fruit_fill	10	kg/ha
P?O?	Fruit_fill	0	kg/ha
K?O	Fruit_fill	60	kg/ha
N	Establishment	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Establishment	25	kg/ha
K?O	Establishment	25	kg/ha
N	Vegetative	50	kg/ha
P?O?	Vegetative	10	kg/ha
K?O	Vegetative	40	kg/ha
N	Flowering_fruit_set	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Flowering_fruit_set	20	kg/ha
K?O	Flowering_fruit_set	50	kg/ha
N	Fruit_fill	10	kg/ha
P?O?	Fruit_fill	0	kg/ha

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
K?O	Fruit_fill	60	kg/ha
N	Establishment	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Establishment	25	kg/ha
K?O	Establishment	25	kg/ha
N	Vegetative	50	kg/ha
P?O?	Vegetative	10	kg/ha
K?O	Vegetative	40	kg/ha
N	Flowering_fruit_set	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Flowering_fruit_set	20	kg/ha
K?O	Flowering_fruit_set	50	kg/ha
N	Fruit_fill	10	kg/ha
P?O?	Fruit_fill	0	kg/ha
K?O	Fruit_fill	60	kg/ha
N	Establishment	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Establishment	25	kg/ha
K?O	Establishment	25	kg/ha
N	Vegetative	50	kg/ha
P?O?	Vegetative	10	kg/ha
K?O	Vegetative	40	kg/ha
N	Flowering_fruit_set	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Flowering_fruit_set	20	kg/ha
K?O	Flowering_fruit_set	50	kg/ha
N	Fruit_fill	10	kg/ha
P?O?	Fruit_fill	0	kg/ha
K?O	Fruit_fill	60	kg/ha
N	Establishment	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Establishment	25	kg/ha
K?O	Establishment	25	kg/ha
N	Vegetative	50	kg/ha
P?O?	Vegetative	10	kg/ha

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
K?O	Vegetative	40	kg/ha
N	Flowering_fruit_set	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Flowering_fruit_set	20	kg/ha
K?O	Flowering_fruit_set	50	kg/ha
N	Fruit_fill	10	kg/ha
P?O?	Fruit_fill	0	kg/ha
K?O	Fruit_fill	60	kg/ha
N	Establishment	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Establishment	25	kg/ha
K?O	Establishment	25	kg/ha
N	Vegetative	50	kg/ha
P?O?	Vegetative	10	kg/ha
K?O	Vegetative	40	kg/ha
N	Flowering_fruit_set	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Flowering_fruit_set	20	kg/ha
K?O	Flowering_fruit_set	50	kg/ha
N	Fruit_fill	10	kg/ha
P?O?	Fruit_fill	0	kg/ha
K?O	Fruit_fill	60	kg/ha

Field images

Varieties

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits
Local small acid Lime (ndimu)	KE	1095	Small, very acidic fruits used for tea, food and drinks.
Persian / Tahiti lime type	TZ	1095	Larger, less seedy fruits, good for juice and fresh market.

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits
Grafted Lime (ndimu) selections	UG	1095	Selected for yield and tolerance to some citrus diseases.
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Fertilizer recommendations

Stage	Product	Rate	Notes
Basal	Well-rotted farmyard manure	6000	Applied once a year or every two years in rings around Lime (ndimu) trees.
Vegetative	CAN 26% N	50	Split into 2–3 applications to reduce losses and burning.
Flowering and fruiting	NPK 17-17-17 or high-K blend	100	Applied in small amounts before and after flowering to support crop load.
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Pests and diseases

Name	Type	Symptoms	Management

Citrus aphids	pest	Curled leaves, sticky honeydew and black sooty mould on young Lime (ndimu) shoots.	Encourage natural enemies, avoid unnecessary broad-spectrum sprays and use selective products when numbers are high.
Scales and mealybugs	pest	Sticky stems and leaves, sooty mould, reduced vigour and yellowing.	Prune overcrowded twigs, control ants and use horticultural oils or selective insecticides when needed.
Citrus leafminer	pest	Silvery winding mines in young leaves, leaf curling and distortion.	Avoid soft flushes from heavy late nitrogen and use selective insecticides or biocontrols where infestations are severe.
Fruit flies	pest	Punctures on lime fruits, rotting pulp and fruit drop.	Collect and destroy infested fruits, keep the area clean and use bait traps and recommended fruit fly controls.
Citrus canker and leaf/fruit spots	disease	Raised corky lesions on leaves and fruits, blemished fruits and leaf drop.	Use clean seedlings, prune out heavily affected twigs and apply copper-based protectants where disease pressure is high.
Root and collar rots (Phytophthora)	disease	Gumming at the trunk base, bark rotting and general decline of trees.	Improve drainage, avoid piling soil or mulch against the trunk and keep irrigation water off the tree base.
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Scales and mealybugs	pest	Sticky stems and leaves, sooty mould, reduced vigour and yellowing.	Prune overcrowded twigs, control ants and use horticultural oils or selective insecticides when needed.
Citrus leafminer	pest	Silvery winding mines in young leaves, leaf curling and distortion.	Avoid soft flushes from heavy late nitrogen and use selective insecticides or biocontrols where infestations are severe.
Fruit flies	pest	Punctures on lime fruits, rotting pulp and fruit drop.	Collect and destroy infested fruits, keep the area clean and use bait traps and recommended fruit fly controls.
Citrus canker and leaf/fruit spots	disease	Raised corky lesions on leaves and fruits, blemished fruits and leaf drop.	Use clean seedlings, prune out heavily affected twigs and apply copper-based protectants where disease pressure is high.
Root and collar rots (Phytophthora)	disease	Gumming at the trunk base, bark rotting and general decline of trees.	Improve drainage, avoid piling soil or mulch against the trunk and keep irrigation water off the tree base.

Yields

System	Typical	Min	Max	Notes
Homestead Lime (ndimu) trees	8	4	12	Scattered trees around homes with limited fertilizer and pruning.
Managed smallholder lime orchard	18	10	25	Grafted Lime (ndimu) trees with manuring/fertilizer and basic pest control.
Intensive irrigated lime orchard	30	20	40	High-input management with irrigation, regular pruning and full nutrition.
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Season calendars

Country	Region	Planting	Harvest
KE	Coastal and lower mid-altitude Lime (ndimu) areas	Start of rains so young trees can establish with reliable moisture.	Several flushes of flowering and fruiting through the yea
TZ	Coastal belt and warm inland citrus zones	Onset of the main rainy season on well-drained soils.	Spread across the year depending on rainfall and pruning
UG	Warm low to mid-altitude areas	Start of rains to reduce irrigation needs for Lime (ndimu) seedlings.	Multiple harvests per year, often more fruits in the drier,
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Region suitability

Country	Region	Suitability
KE	Coastal belt and lower eastern/southern zones	High
TZ	Coastal and warm inland citrus-growing areas	High
UG	Warm low to mid-altitude regions	High

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