

FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

Turmeric

Curcuma longa

Family: Zingiberaceae

Categories

Spices & Condiments

Generated: 2026-04-11 10:17

Quick stats

Family	Zingiberaceae
Typical harvest	23.0 t/ha
Varieties	48
Pests and diseases	64
Seasons	48

Crop profile

Growth habit	perennial
Days to harvest	270
Main uses	Fresh and dried rhizomes for spice/colouring, processing into powder and pastes.
Pollination	unknown
Origin and where it grows	Thrives in warm, humid to sub-humid mid-altitudes with reliable moisture or irrigation.

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	20 - 30 °C
Rainfall	1200 - 1600 mm/yr
Altitude	0 - 2000 m
Best pH	6 - 6.8
Soil type	Loose, well-drained loam/sandy loam rich in organic matter for finger development.
Row spacing	60 cm
Plant spacing	25 cm
Planting depth	5 cm
Seed rate	2000 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 270 days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for fresh and dried rhizomes for spice/colouring, processing into powder and pastes..

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

Where it grows: Thrives in warm, humid to sub-humid mid-altitudes with reliable moisture or irrigation.. Grouped under: Spices & Condiments.

Best climate: 20 - 30 °C; 1200 - 1600 mm/yr; up to about 2000 m a.s.l.

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
3	Bulking K boost	90	Sulfate of potash (SOP)	120 kg/ha	N: 0, P ₂ O ₅ : 0, K ₂ O: 60	Improves finger size, density and postharvest quality.

Nutrient requirements

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P ₂ O ₅	Basal	30	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
P ₂ O ₅	Topdress_early	10	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Topdress_early	30	kg/ha
N	Bulking	20	kg/ha
P ₂ O ₅	Bulking	0	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Bulking	50	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P ₂ O ₅	Basal	30	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
P ₂ O ₅	Topdress_early	10	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Topdress_early	30	kg/ha
N	Bulking	20	kg/ha
P ₂ O ₅	Bulking	0	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Bulking	50	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P ₂ O ₅	Basal	30	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
P ₂ O ₅	Topdress_early	10	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Topdress_early	30	kg/ha
N	Bulking	20	kg/ha
P ₂ O ₅	Bulking	0	kg/ha

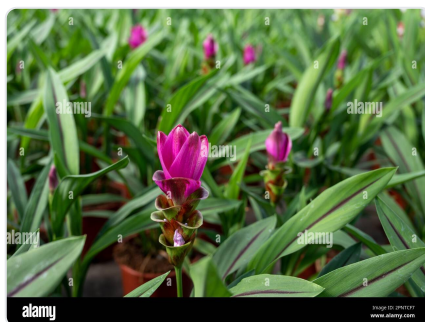
<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>
K?O	Bulking	50	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_early	10	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_early	30	kg/ha
N	Bulking	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Bulking	0	kg/ha
K?O	Bulking	50	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
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K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_early	10	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_early	30	kg/ha
N	Bulking	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Bulking	0	kg/ha
K?O	Bulking	50	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha

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K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_early	10	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_early	30	kg/ha
N	Bulking	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Bulking	0	kg/ha
K?O	Bulking	50	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha
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N	Bulking	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Bulking	0	kg/ha
K?O	Bulking	50	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_early	10	kg/ha

<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>
K?O	Topdress_early	30	kg/ha
N	Bulking	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Bulking	0	kg/ha
K?O	Bulking	50	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_early	10	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_early	30	kg/ha
N	Bulking	20	kg/ha
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K?O	Topdress_early	30	kg/ha
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P?O?	Bulking	0	kg/ha

<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>
K?O	Bulking	50	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_early	10	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_early	30	kg/ha
N	Bulking	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Bulking	0	kg/ha
K?O	Bulking	50	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
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N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_early	10	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_early	30	kg/ha
N	Bulking	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Bulking	0	kg/ha
K?O	Bulking	50	kg/ha

Field images



Varieties

<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Maturity (days)</u>	<u>Traits</u>
Alleppey-type selection	KE	260	Deep colour, high curcumin; suited for drying.
Early yellow selection	TZ	240	Earlier harvest for fresh market.
Local turmeric (manjano) type	UG	270	Adapted local selection for homestead and market.
Alleppey-type selection	KE	260	Deep colour, high curcumin; suited for drying.
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Fertilizer recommendations

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Basal	NPK 17-17-17 + compost	150	With 6–8 t/ha compost incorporated pre-plant.
Topdress (early)	CAN 26% N	120	6–8 weeks after emergence.
Bulking	SOP (K?SO?)	120	Boosts finger bulking and colour.

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Pests and diseases

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Rhizome rot (Pythium/Fusarium complex)	disease	Yellowing, wilting, soft brown rhizomes with foul smell.	Well-drained raised beds, clean seed, remove infected stools and improve rotation.
Leaf blotch/spot	disease	Brown lesions on leaves; premature drying.	Better airflow, avoid late overhead irrigation, timely protectants when needed.
Root-knot nematodes	pest	Stunted clumps, poor bulking, knotted roots.	Use clean seed, rotate with non-hosts, add organic matter and solarise beds where feasible.
Cutworms/armyworms (early)	pest	Seedlings cut or defoliated at early stages.	Keep beds clean pre-planting; spot treat early outbreaks.
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Root-knot nematodes	pest	Stunted clumps, poor bulking, knotted roots.	Use clean seed, rotate with non-hosts, add organic matter and solarise beds where feasible.
Cutworms/armyworms (early)	pest	Seedlings cut or defoliated at early stages.	Keep beds clean pre-planting; spot treat early outbreaks.
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Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Low-input rainfed (fresh)	12	8	16	Basic manuring and mulching; minimal fertilizer.
Managed beds (fresh)	22	15	30	Good seed, organic matter + balanced NPK, irrigation as needed.
Intensive drip + fertigation	35	25	45	High-quality seed, rigorous sanitation, steady feeding and moisture.
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Season calendars

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
KE	High rainfall highlands & irrigated mid-altitudes	Onset of long or short rains on raised, mulched beds.	8–10 months after planting depending on market (fresh vs dry).
TZ	Southern highlands & northern irrigated belts	Start of main rains or under irrigation any time.	Staggered harvests based on demand and curing plans.

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
UG	Moist mid-altitudes with good drainage	At onset of reliable rains on friable soils.	Most crops ready 9–10 months from planting.
KE	High rainfall highlands & irrigated mid-altitudes	Onset of long or short rains on raised, mulched beds.	8–10 months after planting depending on market (fresh vs dry).
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Region suitability

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Central & Rift highlands; wet mid-altitudes	High
TZ	Southern highlands; Kilimanjaro/Arusha irrigated pockets	High
UG	Mid-altitude belts with dependable rainfall and drainage	High

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