

FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

East African highland banana (matoke)

Musa spp. (AAA-EA group)

Family: Musaceae

Categories

Bananas & Plantains

Generated: 2026-04-11 10:15

Quick stats

Family	Musaceae
Typical harvest	18.0 t/ha
Varieties	1
Pests and diseases	2
Seasons	1

Crop profile

Growth habit	perennial
Days to harvest	300-450
Main uses	Starchy cooking banana
Pollination	vegetative
Origin and where it grows	E. Africa highlands

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	20 - 28 °C
Rainfall	1200 - 2000 mm/yr
Altitude	900 - 2000 m
Best pH	6 - 6.8
Soil type	Deep, fertile loam; high organic matter
Row spacing	300 cm
Plant spacing	300 cm
Planting depth	30 cm
Seed rate	kg/ha (check local recommendation)

Simple notes for farmers

About the crop: This crop is perennial; once planted it can keep producing for many years. Harvest typically starts about 300-450 days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for starchy cooking banana.

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

Where it grows: E. Africa highlands. Grouped under: Bananas & Plantains.

Best climate: 20 - 28 °C; 1200 - 2000 mm/yr; up to about 2000 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 6 - 6.8; deep, fertile loam; high organic matter.

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

Planting

Plant healthy suckers or tissue culture plants; mulch heavily; maintain 3 plants/mat.

Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Planting	0	NPK 17-17-17	150 kg/ha	N: N/A, P ₂ O ₅ : N/A, K ₂ O: N/A	N/A
2	Vegetative	90	CAN 26% N	120 kg/ha	N: N/A, P ₂ O ₅ : N/A, K ₂ O: N/A	N/A
3	Bunching	180	MOP (K ₂ O 60%)	100 kg/ha	N: N/A, P ₂ O ₅ : N/A, K ₂ O: N/A	N/A

Nutrient requirements

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Basal	60	kg/ha
P ₂ O ₅	Basal	40	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Basal	120	kg/ha
N	Topdress	60	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Topdress	80	kg/ha

Field images**Varieties**

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits
Ng'ombe (AAA-EA)	KE	380	Preferred for matoke; high bunch weight

Fertilizer recommendations

Stage	Product	Rate	Notes
Planting	NPK 17-17-17	150	
Vegetative	CAN 26% N	120	

Pests and diseases

Name	Type	Symptoms	Management
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Banana weevil	pest	Tunnels in corm; plant snaps	Clean planting material; traps; field sanitation
Black Sigatoka	disease	Leaf streaks & necrosis	Desucker; remove old leaves; resistant cultivars

Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
rainfed smallholder	18	10	30	

Season calendars

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
KE	High rainfall highlands	Mar–May / Oct–Nov	All year (after 12–15 mo)

Region suitability

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	High rainfall highlands	High

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