

FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

Bay Leaf

Laurus nobilis

Family: Lauraceae

Categories

Vegetables

Spices & Condiments

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Quick stats

Family	Lauraceae
Typical harvest	3.5 t/ha
Varieties	1
Pests and diseases	2
Seasons	1

Crop profile

Growth habit	tree
Days to harvest	365
Main uses	Leaves dried and used as spice in stews and sauces.
Pollination	insect
Origin and where it grows	Tree herb suited to mild highland home gardens and estates.

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	14 - 24 °C
Rainfall	450 - 800 mm/yr
Altitude	800 - 2800 m
Best pH	6 - 7
Soil type	Fertile well-drained loam rich in organic matter.
Row spacing	35 cm
Plant spacing	20 cm
Planting depth	1.5 cm
Seed rate	3 kg/ha

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 leaves dried and used as spice in stews and sauces..

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

Where it grows: Tree herb suited to mild highland home gardens and estates.. Grouped under: Vegetables, Spices & Condiments.

Best climate: 14 - 24 °C; 450 - 800 mm/yr; up to about 2800 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 6 - 7; fertile well-drained loam rich in organic matter..

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<u>Planting</u>	Establish Bay Leaf in a fine weed-free seedbed and keep emergence moisture steady.
<u>Transplanting</u>	Direct seed or transplant depending on production system.
<u>Irrigation</u>	Maintain even soil moisture for steady Bay Leaf growth and quality.
<u>Fertigation</u>	Use split nitrogen and potassium for market-quality Bay Leaf.
<u>Pest scouting</u>	Scout Bay Leaf weekly for chewing pests, sap suckers, and foliar diseases.
<u>Pruning and training</u>	No pruning required unless sanitation or staking is needed.
<u>Harvest</u>	Harvest Bay Leaf in the cool hours and handle gently to preserve aroma.
<u>Postharvest</u>	Cool and shade Bay Leaf promptly after harvest.

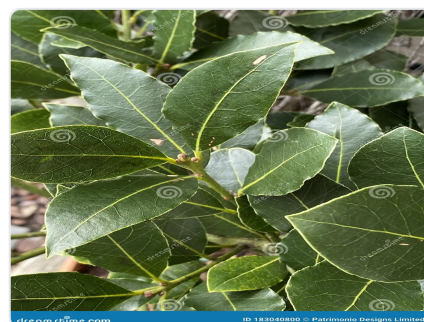
Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Basal	0	NPK 17-17-17	200 kg/ha	N: 34, P ₂ O ₅ : 34, K ₂ O: 34	Basal fertilizer for Bay Leaf.
2	Topdress	21	CAN	100 kg/ha	N: 26, P ₂ O ₅ : N/A, K ₂ O: N/A	Support active Bay Leaf vegetative growth.

Nutrient requirements

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Basal	35	kg/ha
P ₂ O ₅	Basal	30	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Basal	35	kg/ha
N	Topdress	25	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Topdress	20	kg/ha

Field images



Varieties

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits
True Bay	KE	365	Evergreen spice tree.

Fertilizer recommendations

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Planting	Well-rotted manure	5000	Improve soil structure before Bay Leaf planting.
Vegetative growth	CAN	100	Split topdress for Bay Leaf production.

Pests and diseases

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Aphids	pest	Crowding on tender shoots and reduced growth.	Use clean fields and selective control if needed.
Powdery mildew	disease	White powdery growth on leaves.	Improve airflow and avoid overcrowding.

Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Managed fresh-market production	3.5	2.4	5.3	Typical marketable Bay Leaf yield under irrigated or well-managed conditions.

Season calendars

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
KE	Highland Vegetable Zones	Mar-Apr or Oct-Nov	Year-round depending on irrigation

Region suitability

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Highland Vegetable Zones	High

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