

# FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

## Blackberry

*Rubus fruticosus*

Family: Rosaceae

Categories

Fruits & Nuts

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### Quick stats

<b>Family</b>	Rosaceae
<b>Typical harvest</b>	7.0 t/ha
<b>Varieties</b>	1
<b>Pests and diseases</b>	2
<b>Seasons</b>	1

### Crop profile

<b>Growth habit</b>	shrub
<b>Days to harvest</b>	240
<b>Main uses</b>	Fresh berries, juice, jam, and dessert use.
<b>Pollination</b>	insect
<b>Origin and where it grows</b>	Suitable for cool highland berry systems and peri-urban specialty farms.

### Weather, soil and spacing

<b>Best temperature</b>	12 - 24 °C
<b>Rainfall</b>	800 - 1600 mm/yr
<b>Altitude</b>	0 - 2600 m
<b>Best pH</b>	6 - 7
<b>Soil type</b>	Deep, fertile, well-drained soil with good organic matter.
<b>Row spacing</b>	500 cm
<b>Plant spacing</b>	500 cm
<b>Planting depth</b>	30 cm
<b>Seed rate</b>	kg/ha (check local recommendation)
<b>Nursery days</b>	180

### Simple notes for farmers

**About the crop:** This crop has a growth habit described as "shrub". Harvest typically starts about 240 days after planting.

**Main use:** Farmers mostly grow this crop for fresh berries, juice, jam, and dessert use..

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

**Where it grows:** Suitable for cool highland berry systems and peri-urban specialty farms.. Grouped under: Fruits & Nuts.

**Best climate:** 12 - 24 °C; 800 - 1600 mm/yr; up to about 2600 m a.s.l.

**Soil:** Best at pH 6 - 7; deep, fertile, well-drained soil with good organic matter..

### Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<b><u>Planting</u></b>	Plant healthy Blackberry seedlings or grafted plants at onset of rains in prepared pits.
<b><u>Transplanting</u></b>	Handle Blackberry rootballs carefully and water well after planting.
<b><u>Irrigation</u></b>	Maintain steady moisture during establishment and fruit development of Blackberry.
<b><u>Fertigation</u></b>	Split nutrients through active growth and fruit development in Blackberry.
<b><u>Pest scouting</u></b>	Scout Blackberry regularly for fruit flies, scales, borers, and foliar diseases.
<b><u>Pruning and training</u></b>	Prune Blackberry to maintain canopy light, height, and sanitation.
<b><u>Harvest</u></b>	Harvest Blackberry at the right maturity stage for fresh-market quality.
<b><u>Postharvest</u></b>	Keep Blackberry shaded and cool after harvest to preserve market quality.

### **Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)**

<b><u>#</u></b>	<b><u>Stage</u></b>	<b><u>DAP</u></b>	<b><u>Product</u></b>	<b><u>Rate</u></b>	<b><u>Targets (kg/ha)</u></b>	<b><u>Notes</u></b>
1	Planting or season start	0	Well-rotted manure	8000 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Improve rooting environment for Blackberry.
2	Pre-fruiting	90	NPK 17-17-17	200 kg/ha	N: 34, P?O?: 34, K?O: 34	Balanced nutrient support for Blackberry.

### **Nutrient requirements**

<b><u>Nutrient</u></b>	<b><u>Stage</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>	<b><u>Unit</u></b>
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Fruiting	40	kg/ha
K?O	Fruiting	50	kg/ha

### **Field images**



### **Varieties**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Country</u></b>	<b><u>Maturity (days)</u></b>	<b><u>Traits</u></b>
Thornless Blackberry	KE	240	Fresh-market berry with easier handling.

## **Fertilizer recommendations**

<b><u>Stage</u></b>	<b><u>Product</u></b>	<b><u>Rate</u></b>	<b><u>Notes</u></b>
Planting	Well-rotted manure	8000	Organic matter for Blackberry establishment.
Pre-fruiting	NPK 17-17-17	200	Balanced fertilizer ahead of major Blackberry crop load.

## **Pests and diseases**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Type</u></b>	<b><u>Symptoms</u></b>	<b><u>Management</u></b>
Fruit flies	pest	Stings, larval feeding, and rotting fruits.	Field sanitation, trapping, and timely harvest.
Anthracnose and fruit rots	disease	Lesions on flowers, leaves, or fruits reducing quality.	Prune for airflow, keep orchards clean, and protect during wet periods.

## **Yields**

<b><u>System</u></b>	<b><u>Typical</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>Max</u></b>	<b><u>Notes</u></b>
Managed orchard production	7	4.2	11.2	Typical orchard yield for Blackberry under practical management.

## **Season calendars**

<b><u>Country</u></b>	<b><u>Region</u></b>	<b><u>Planting</u></b>	<b><u>Harvest</u></b>
KE	Managed Orchard Zones	Mar-Apr or Oct-Nov	Depends on variety and agroecology

## **Region suitability**

<b><u>Country</u></b>	<b><u>Region</u></b>	<b><u>Suitability</u></b>
KE	Managed Orchard Zones	Medium

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