

# FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

## Dragon Fruit

*Selenicereus undatus*

Family: Cactaceae

Categories

Fruits & Nuts

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### Quick stats

<b>Family</b>	Cactaceae
<b>Typical harvest</b>	14.0 t/ha
<b>Varieties</b>	1
<b>Pests and diseases</b>	2
<b>Seasons</b>	1

### Crop profile

<b>Growth habit</b>	climber
<b>Days to harvest</b>	365
<b>Main uses</b>	Fresh fruit for premium urban markets and export niches.
<b>Pollination</b>	insect
<b>Origin and where it grows</b>	Expanding in warm dry to sub-humid zones with irrigation support.

### Weather, soil and spacing

<b>Best temperature</b>	18 - 32 °C
<b>Rainfall</b>	600 - 1200 mm/yr
<b>Altitude</b>	0 - 1800 m
<b>Best pH</b>	6 - 7
<b>Soil type</b>	Deep, fertile, well-drained soil with good organic matter.
<b>Row spacing</b>	300 cm
<b>Plant spacing</b>	250 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 "climber". Harvest typically starts about 365 days after planting.

**Main use:** Farmers mostly grow this crop for fresh fruit for premium urban markets and export niches..

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

**Where it grows:** Expanding in warm dry to sub-humid zones with irrigation support.. Grouped under: Fruits & Nuts.

**Best climate:** 18 - 32 °C; 600 - 1200 mm/yr; up to about 1800 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 Dragon Fruit seedlings or grafted plants at onset of rains in prepared pits.
<b><u>Transplanting</u></b>	Handle Dragon Fruit rootballs carefully and water well after planting.
<b><u>Irrigation</u></b>	Maintain steady moisture during establishment and fruit development of Dragon Fruit.
<b><u>Fertigation</u></b>	Split nutrients through active growth and fruit development in Dragon Fruit.
<b><u>Pest scouting</u></b>	Scout Dragon Fruit regularly for fruit flies, scales, borers, and foliar diseases.
<b><u>Pruning and training</u></b>	Prune Dragon Fruit to maintain canopy light, height, and sanitation.
<b><u>Harvest</u></b>	Harvest Dragon Fruit at the right maturity stage for fresh-market quality.
<b><u>Postharvest</u></b>	Keep Dragon Fruit shaded and cool after harvest to preserve market quality.

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

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
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 Dragon Fruit.
2	Pre-fruiting	90	NPK 17-17-17	200 kg/ha	N: 34, P?O?: 34, K?O: 34	Balanced nutrient support for Dragon Fruit.

### **Nutrient requirements**

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
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**

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits
White-fleshed Dragon Fruit	KE	365	Climbing cactus with high-value fruit.

## **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 Dragon Fruit establishment.
Pre-fruiting	NPK 17-17-17	200	Balanced fertilizer ahead of major Dragon Fruit 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.
Anthraxnose 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	14	8.4	22.4	Typical orchard yield for Dragon Fruit 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](http://farmlens.africa) and [app.farmlens.africa](http://app.farmlens.africa). Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya. This guide was generated from the FarmLens database.