FarmLens Ltd

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

Crop details

Bottle gourd

Lagenaria siceraria

Family: Cucurbitaceae

Categories

Vegetables

Generated: 2026-04-11 08:16

Quick stats

Family	Cucurbitaceae
Typical harvest	18.0 t/ha
Varieties	1
Pests and diseases	3
Seasons	2

Crop profile

Growth habit	annual
Days to harvest	90-130
Main uses	Fruit vegetable; utensils (dry shell)
Pollination	insect
Origin and where it grows	Tropics

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	22 - 30 °C
Rainfall	600 - 900 mm/yr
Altitude	0 - 1600 m
Best pH	6 - 7
Soil type	Fertile, well-drained loam
Row spacing	200 cm
Plant spacing	100 cm
Planting depth	2 cm
Seed rate	2 kg/ha
Nursery days	18

Simple notes for farmers

About the crop: This crop is annual; it grows and is harvested in one season. Harvest typically starts about 90-130 days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for fruit vegetable; utensils (dry shell).

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

Where it grows: Tropics. Grouped under: Vegetables.

Best climate: 22 - 30 °C; 600 - 900 mm/yr; up to about 1600 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 6 - 7; fertile, well-drained loam.

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

Planting	Plant into fertile, well-drained beds; provide strong trellis for vines; mulch to conserve moisture.
Transplanting	Transplant at 3–4 true leaves; avoid root disturbance; water in well.
Irrigation	Maintain steady moisture; increase during flowering/fruit set; avoid wet foliage at night.
Fertigation	If drip is available, split N and K weekly during fruiting.
Pest scouting	Scout for fruit fly and downy/powdery mildew; remove infested fruit; use traps and sanitation.
Pruning and training	Train main vine on trellis; prune excess laterals for airflow and fruit quality.
Harvest	Harvest immature fruits 12–20 days after set for vegetables; leave longer for utensil shells.
Postharvest	Shade-cool; store at ~10–12 °C with high RH; handle gently to avoid scuffing.

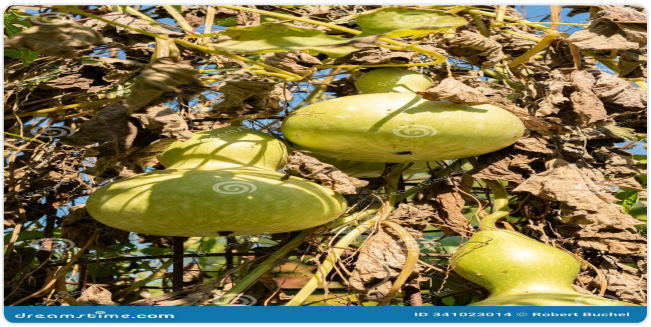
Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Basal	0	DAP 18-46-0	100 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Band 5–8 cm from seedlings; avoid seed burn
2	Veg	25	CAN 26% N	100 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Irrigate after application
3	Micros	28	Trace mix (Zn, B)	0 —	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Foliar—follow label; apply early morning/evening

Nutrient requirements

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
P?O?	Basal	40	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress	40	kg/ha
N	Veg	40	kg/ha

Field images



Varieties

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits

Calabash Local	KE	110	Long vines

Fertilizer recommendations

Stage	Product	Rate	Notes
Basal	DAP 18-46-0	100	
Veg	CAN 26% N	100	Split if soils are light

Pests and diseases

Name	Type	Symptoms	Management
Fruit fly	pest	Oviposition stings	Bait traps; sanitation
Downy mildew	disease	Leaf blight under humid conditions	Improve airflow; avoid overhead irrigation; protective sprays when needed
Powdery mildew	disease	White powder on leaves	Sanitation; sulfur or labeled fungicides as needed

Yields

System	Typical	Min	Max	Notes
open-field	18	10	30	

Season calendars

Country	Region	Planting	Harvest
KE	Lowlands	Mar–Apr	Jun–Aug
KE	Irrigated schemes	Year-round (staggered)	—

Region suitability

Country	Region	Suitability
KE	Lowlands	High
TZ	Coastal belt	High
UG	Lake Victoria basin (warm zones)	Medium

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