

FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

East African Highland

Banana

Musa AAA-EA

Family: Musaceae

Categories

Bananas & Plantains

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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 | 420 |
| Main uses | Staple matoke cooking banana for household consumption and trade. |
| Pollination | insect |
| Origin and where it grows | Core staple in Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and western Kenya highlands. |

Weather, soil and spacing

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Best temperature | 18 - 28 °C |
| Rainfall | 800 - 1600 mm/yr |
| Altitude | 1000 - 2200 m |
| Best pH | 6 - 7 |
| Soil type | Deep, fertile, well-drained soil with good organic matter. |
| Row spacing | 500 cm |
| Plant spacing | 500 cm |
| Planting depth | 30 cm |
| Seed rate | kg/ha (check local recommendation) |
| Nursery days | 180 |

Simple notes for farmers

About the crop: This crop is perennial; once planted it can keep producing for many years. Harvest typically starts about 420 days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for staple matoke cooking banana for household consumption and trade..

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

Where it grows: Core staple in Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and western Kenya highlands.. Grouped under: Bananas & Plantains.

Best climate: 18 - 28 °C; 800 - 1600 mm/yr; up to about 2200 m a.s.l.

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

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <u>Planting</u> | Plant healthy East African Highland Banana seedlings or grafted plants at onset of rains in prepared pits. |
| <u>Transplanting</u> | Handle East African Highland Banana rootballs carefully and water well after planting. |
| <u>Irrigation</u> | Maintain steady moisture during establishment and fruit development of East African Highland Banana. |
| <u>Fertigation</u> | Split nutrients through active growth and fruit development in East African Highland Banana. |
| <u>Pest scouting</u> | Scout East African Highland Banana regularly for fruit flies, scales, borers, and foliar diseases. |
| <u>Pruning and training</u> | Prune East African Highland Banana to maintain canopy light, height, and sanitation. |
| <u>Harvest</u> | Harvest East African Highland Banana at the right maturity stage for fresh-market quality. |
| <u>Postharvest</u> | Keep East African Highland Banana 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 East African Highland Banana. |
| 2 | Pre-fruiting | 90 | NPK 17-17-17 | 200 kg/ha | N: 34, P?O?: 34, K?O: 34 | Balanced nutrient support for East African Highland Banana. |

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

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Country</u> | <u>Maturity (days)</u> | <u>Traits</u> |
|-------------|----------------|------------------------|---|
| Nakitengwa | UG | 420 | EAHB cooking type with stable bunching. |

Fertilizer recommendations

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

Pests and diseases

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Type</u> | <u>Symptoms</u> | <u>Management</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------|---|---|
| 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

| <u>System</u> | <u>Typical</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>Max</u> | <u>Notes</u> |
|----------------------------|----------------|------------|------------|--|
| Managed orchard production | 18 | 10.8 | 28.8 | Typical orchard yield for East African Highland Banana under practical management. |

Season calendars

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

Region suitability

| <u>Country</u> | <u>Region</u> | <u>Suitability</u> |
|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 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.