

FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

Stevia

Stevia rebaudiana

Family: Asteraceae

Categories

Oil & Industrial

Spices & Condiments

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Quick stats

Family	Asteraceae
Typical harvest	3.2 t/ha
Varieties	1
Pests and diseases	2
Seasons	1

Crop profile

Growth habit	perennial
Days to harvest	110
Main uses	Leaf sweetener crop for nutraceutical and food processing.
Pollination	insect
Origin and where it grows	Cultivated in selected East African contract-farming and high-value herb systems.

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	18 - 28 °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 is perennial; once planted it can keep producing for many years. Harvest typically starts about 110 days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for leaf sweetener crop for nutraceutical and food processing..

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

Where it grows: Cultivated in selected East African contract-farming and high-value herb systems.. Grouped under: Oil & Industrial, Spices & Condiments.

Best climate: 18 - 28 °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 Stevia 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 Stevia growth and quality.
<u>Fertigation</u>	Use split nitrogen and potassium for market-quality Stevia.
<u>Pest scouting</u>	Scout Stevia 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 Stevia in the cool hours and handle gently to preserve aroma.
<u>Postharvest</u>	Cool and shade Stevia 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 Stevia.
2	Topdress	21	CAN	100 kg/ha	N: 26, P ₂ O ₅ : N/A, K ₂ O: N/A	Support active Stevia 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
Morita II	KE	110	High stevioside leaf line for processing.

Fertilizer recommendations

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Planting	Well-rotted manure	5000	Improve soil structure before Stevia planting.
Vegetative growth	CAN	100	Split topdress for Stevia 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	3.2	2.2	4.8	Typical marketable Stevia 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.