

FarmLens Ltd

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Crop details

Asparagus

Asparagus officinalis

Family: Asparagaceae

Categories

Vegetables

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Quick stats

Family	Asparagaceae
Typical harvest	5.0 t/ha
Varieties	2
Pests and diseases	2
Seasons	2

Crop profile

Growth habit	perennial
Days to harvest	240
Main uses	Tender spears consumed fresh, steamed, grilled, or processed.
Pollination	insect
Origin and where it grows	Suitable for cool to warm dry highland areas with irrigation and good drainage.

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	18 - 28 °C
Rainfall	500 - 700 mm/yr
Altitude	600 - 2500 m
Best pH	6.5 - 7.4
Soil type	Deep sandy loam to loam with excellent drainage and low compaction.
Row spacing	150 cm
Plant spacing	35 cm
Planting depth	20 cm
Seed rate	4 kg/ha
Nursery days	90

Simple notes for farmers

About the crop: This crop is perennial; once planted it can keep producing for many years. Harvest typically starts about 240 days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for tender spears consumed fresh, steamed, grilled, or processed..

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

Where it grows: Suitable for cool to warm dry highland areas with irrigation and good drainage.. Grouped under: Vegetables.

Best climate: 18 - 28 °C; 500 - 700 mm/yr; up to about 2500 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 6.5 - 7.4; deep sandy loam to loam with excellent drainage and low compaction..

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<u>Planting</u>	Establish from crowns or strong nursery seedlings in raised furrows enriched with manure.
<u>Transplanting</u>	Set crowns deep, spread roots well and cover gradually as shoots emerge.
<u>Irrigation</u>	Irrigate consistently during establishment and spear flushes without saturating the root zone.
<u>Fertigation</u>	Apply nitrogen after each flush and maintain potassium to support fern growth.
<u>Pest scouting</u>	Inspect for cutworms, beetles, rust and Fusarium symptoms in crowns and ferns.
<u>Pruning and training</u>	Allow healthy fern growth after harvest to rebuild root reserves.
<u>Harvest</u>	Cut spears at 18-22 cm while tips remain tight and before fibrous growth begins.
<u>Postharvest</u>	Hydrocool or chill quickly and keep bunches upright under cool storage.

Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Basal	0	DAP	200 kg/ha	N: 36, P?O?: 92, K?O: N/A	Place below and beside crowns.
2	After harvest flush	120	CAN	150 kg/ha	N: 39, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Apply after spear cutting period.

Nutrient requirements

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	50	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	80	kg/ha
N	After_harvest_flush	50	kg/ha
K?O	After_harvest_flush	40	kg/ha

Field images



Varieties

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits
Mary Washington	KE	240	Adapted open-pollinated standard type.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Maturity (days)</u>	<u>Traits</u>
UC 157	UG	220	Productive green spear cultivar.

Fertilizer recommendations

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Basal	Well-rotted manure	10000	Deeply incorporate into beds or furrows.
Fern regrowth	CAN	150	Topdress after harvest flush.

Pests and diseases

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Cutworms	pest	Young shoots cut near the soil surface.	Keep fields clean, monitor at dusk and protect new plantings where needed.
Asparagus rust	disease	Orange-brown pustules on ferns leading to weak crowns.	Use clean fields, improve airflow and remove heavily infected fern residue.

Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Established irrigated field	5	3	8	Marketable spear yield after full stand establishment.

Season calendars

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
KE	Upper Midlands	Mar-Apr or Sep-Oct	From year 2 onward in cool months
TZ	Northern Highlands	Nov-Dec	From year 2 onward after establishment

Region suitability

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Upper Midlands	Medium

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