

FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

Buckwheat

Fagopyrum esculentum

Family: Polygonaceae

Categories

Cereals & Pseudocereals

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Quick stats

Family	Polygonaceae
Typical harvest	1.5 t/ha
Varieties	1
Pests and diseases	2
Seasons	2

Crop profile

Growth habit	annual
Days to harvest	95
Main uses	Grain for flour and porridge, bee forage and short-duration cover crop.
Pollination	insect
Origin and where it grows	A niche cool-season crop suited to high-altitude African production zones and trial plots.

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	15 - 24 °C
Rainfall	450 - 700 mm/yr
Altitude	1400 - 3000 m
Best pH	5.5 - 6.8
Soil type	Light to medium well-drained soils, including relatively low fertility fields.
Row spacing	25 cm
Plant spacing	8 cm
Planting depth	3 cm
Seed rate	60 kg/ha

Simple notes for farmers

About the crop: This crop is annual; it grows and is harvested in one season. Harvest typically starts about 95 days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for grain for flour and porridge, bee forage and short-duration cover crop..

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

Where it grows: A niche cool-season crop suited to high-altitude African production zones and trial plots.. Grouped under: Cereals & Pseudocereals.

Best climate: 15 - 24 °C; 450 - 700 mm/yr; up to about 3000 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 5.5 - 6.8; light to medium well-drained soils, including relatively low fertility fields..

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<u>Planting</u>	Direct-seed into moist fine soil at the beginning of a cool growing window.
<u>Transplanting</u>	Not transplanted because the crop establishes rapidly from direct seed.
<u>Irrigation</u>	Provide light irrigation where rainfall is unreliable, especially at flowering.
<u>Fertigation</u>	Use modest fertility only; excessive nitrogen causes lodging and poor grain set.
<u>Pest scouting</u>	Check flowering stands for insect activity, lodging and leaf spot symptoms.
<u>Pruning and training</u>	No pruning required.
<u>Harvest</u>	Harvest when most seeds have turned dark and plants start drying, before heavy shattering.
<u>Postharvest</u>	Dry well after harvest and thresh gently because seed shatters easily.

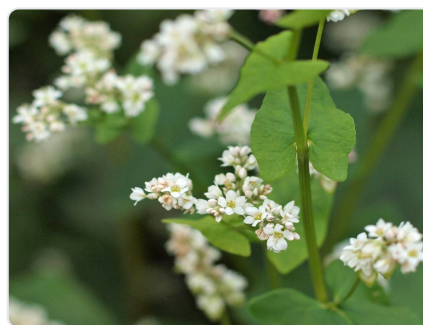
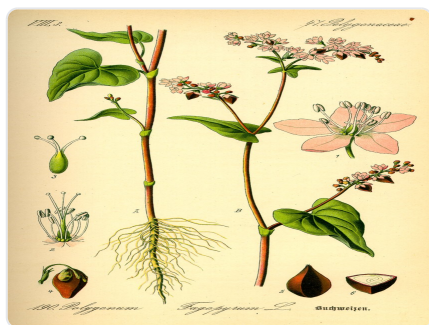
Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Basal	0	NPK 17-17-17	120 kg/ha	N: 20.4, P ₂ O ₅ : 20.4, K ₂ O: 20.4	Apply at seeding only.

Nutrient requirements

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Basal	20	kg/ha
P ₂ O ₅	Basal	20	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Basal	20	kg/ha

Field images



Varieties

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits
Common Buckwheat	ET	95	General-purpose grain type for cool zones.

Fertilizer recommendations

Stage	Product	Rate	Notes
Planting	NPK 17-17-17	120	Avoid over-fertilizing with nitrogen.

Pests and diseases

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Bird damage	pest	Seed loss during grain filling and before harvest.	Use timely harvest, bird scaring and synchronized planting where possible.
Leaf spot complex	disease	Leaf lesions and premature drying under humid conditions.	Use wider spacing, crop rotation and avoid overhead irrigation.

Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Highland trial plots and niche production	1.5	0.8	2.3	Short-duration pseudocereal performance under cool conditions.

Season calendars

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
ET	Highland Trial Zones	Jun-Jul	Sep-Oct
KE	Highland Trial Zones	Mar-Apr	Jun-Jul

Region suitability

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
ET	Highland Trial Zones	Medium

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