

FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

Finger millet

Eleusine coracana

Family: Poaceae

Categories

Cereals & Pseudocereals

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Quick stats

Family	Poaceae
Typical harvest	2.0 t/ha
Varieties	48
Pests and diseases	80
Seasons	48

Crop profile

Growth habit	annual
Days to harvest	110
Main uses	Grain for porridge, ugali, baby food, local drinks, and animal feed
Pollination	self
Origin and where it grows	Finger millet (wimbi) is grown in many parts of East Africa, especially in dry and hilly areas.

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	18 - 27 °C
Rainfall	500 - 800 mm/yr
Altitude	100 - 2500 m
Best pH	5.5 - 7
Soil type	Well-drained loam or sandy loam; Finger millet (wimbi) tolerates light and moderately poor soils.
Row spacing	30 cm
Plant spacing	10 cm
Planting depth	2 cm
Seed rate	8 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 110 days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for grain for porridge, ugali, baby food, local drinks, and animal feed.

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

Where it grows: Finger millet (wimbi) is grown in many parts of East Africa, especially in dry and hilly areas.. Grouped under: Cereals & Pseudocereals.

Best climate: 18 - 27 °C; 500 - 800 mm/yr; up to about 2500 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 5.5 - 7; well-drained loam or sandy loam; finger millet (wimbi) tolerates light and moderately poor soils..

Nutrient requirements

<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>
N	Basal	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	20	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	10	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_early	10	kg/ha
N	Topdress_late	10	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_late	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_late	10	kg/ha
N	Basal	20	kg/ha
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P?O?	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_early	10	kg/ha
N	Topdress_late	10	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_late	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_late	10	kg/ha
N	Basal	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	20	kg/ha

<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>
K?O	Basal	10	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_early	10	kg/ha
N	Topdress_late	10	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_late	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_late	10	kg/ha
N	Basal	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	20	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	10	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
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K?O	Topdress_early	10	kg/ha
N	Topdress_late	10	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_late	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_late	10	kg/ha
N	Basal	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	20	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	10	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha

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K?O	Topdress_early	10	kg/ha
N	Topdress_late	10	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_late	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_late	10	kg/ha
N	Basal	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	20	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	10	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_early	10	kg/ha
N	Topdress_late	10	kg/ha
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K?O	Topdress_early	10	kg/ha
N	Topdress_late	10	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_late	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_late	10	kg/ha

Field images



Varieties

<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Maturity (days)</u>	<u>Traits</u>
P224	KE	110	Improved Finger millet (wimbi) variety, good grain yield and suitable for many areas.
U-15	UG	115	High-yielding, suitable for mid-altitude areas.
Local wimbi landrace	KE	120	Adapted to local conditions, preferred taste but lower yield than improved varieties.
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Fertilizer recommendations

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Basal	DAP 18-46-0	50	Provides phosphorus and some nitrogen for early Finger millet (wimbi) growth.
Topdress (early)	CAN 26% N	40	Apply when plants are 3–4 weeks old to support tillering.
Topdress (pre-heading)	Urea 46% N	30	Apply when rain is expected so that it dissolves into the soil.
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Pests and diseases

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Stem borers	pest	Small holes in leaves, dead hearts in young Finger millet (wimbi) plants, tunneling in stems.	Destroy crop residues after harvest and avoid continuous cereal cropping on the same land.
Head worms / ear caterpillars	pest	Feeding on heads and grains, webbing, shriveled grains.	Plant wimbi early and uniformly, and harvest promptly once heads mature.
Birds	pest	Grains eaten from the top of the head, scattered grains on the ground.	Use bird scaring, synchronized planting with neighbours and early-maturing varieties in bird-prone areas.
Blast disease	disease	Small grey or brown spots on leaves and neck; neck may break and heads may be empty.	Use tolerant Finger millet (wimbi) varieties, avoid very high nitrogen and practice crop rotation.
Leaf spots	disease	Brown or grey spots on leaves; heavy infection leads to early drying.	Use clean seed, avoid overcrowding and rotate with legumes or other non-cereals.
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Blast disease	disease	Small grey or brown spots on leaves and neck; neck may break and heads may be empty.	Use tolerant Finger millet (wimbi) varieties, avoid very high nitrogen and practice crop rotation.
Leaf spots	disease	Brown or grey spots on leaves; heavy infection leads to early drying.	Use clean seed, avoid overcrowding and rotate with legumes or other non-cereals.
Stem borers	pest	Small holes in leaves, dead hearts in young Finger millet (wimbi) plants, tunneling in stems.	Destroy crop residues after harvest and avoid continuous cereal cropping on the same land.
Head worms / ear caterpillars	pest	Feeding on heads and grains, webbing, shriveled grains.	Plant wimbi early and uniformly, and harvest promptly once heads mature.
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Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Smallholder rainfed (low input)	1	0.5	1.5	Local wimbi seed, little fertilizer, basic weeding.
Smallholder rainfed (improved management)	2	1.2	2.5	Improved Finger millet (wimbi) varieties, recommended fertilizer and good weed and pest control.
High input / irrigated	3	2.5	3.5	Good varieties, moisture control and well-planned nutrition.
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Season calendars

Country	Region	Planting	Harvest
KE	Highland and mid-altitude (long rains)	Mar–Apr	Aug–Sep
KE	Highland and mid-altitude (short rains)	Oct–Nov	Feb–Mar
UG	Highland wimbi-growing areas	Mar–Apr	Aug–Sep
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Region suitability

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Central and eastern highlands	High
KE	Very dry lowlands	Low
KE	Western and Nyanza highlands	High
TZ	Northern and central highlands	Medium
UG	Highland and mid-altitude Finger millet (wimbi) zones	High

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