

# FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

## Sweet potato

*Ipomoea batatas*

Family: Convolvulaceae

Categories

Roots & Tubers

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### Quick stats

<b>Family</b>	Convolvulaceae
<b>Typical harvest</b>	17.0 t/ha
<b>Varieties</b>	48
<b>Pests and diseases</b>	96
<b>Seasons</b>	48

### Crop profile

<b>Growth habit</b>	climber
<b>Days to harvest</b>	150
<b>Main uses</b>	Boiled, baked, fried roots, crisps, flour, animal feed and leafy vegetables from young tops.
<b>Pollination</b>	insect
<b>Origin and where it grows</b>	Sweet potato (viazi vitamu) is widely grown in warm lowland and mid-altitude areas, especially in regions with unreliable rainfall where it helps bridge hunger gaps.

### Weather, soil and spacing

<b>Best temperature</b>	21 - 26 °C
<b>Rainfall</b>	600 - 1200 mm/yr
<b>Altitude</b>	0 - 2000 m
<b>Best pH</b>	5.5 - 6.5
<b>Soil type</b>	Loose, well-drained sandy loam or loam; Sweet potato (viazi vitamu) forms better, smoother roots in friable soils.
<b>Row spacing</b>	90 cm
<b>Plant spacing</b>	30 cm
<b>Planting depth</b>	5 cm
<b>Seed rate</b>	1500 kg/ha

### Simple notes for farmers

**About the crop:** This crop has a growth habit described as "climber". Harvest typically starts about 150 days after planting.

**Main use:** Farmers mostly grow this crop for boiled, baked, fried roots, crisps, flour, animal feed and leafy vegetables from young tops..

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

**Where it grows:** Sweet potato (viazi vitamu) is widely grown in warm lowland and mid-altitude areas, especially in regions with unreliable rainfall where it helps bridge hunger gaps.. Grouped under: Roots & Tubers.





#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
2	Early topdress	30	NPK with extra K or separate urea + MOP	100 kg/ha	N: 20, P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> : 0, K <sub>2</sub> O: 20	Apply around the base of Sweet potato (viazi vitamu) vines when soil is moist.
2	Early topdress	30	NPK with extra K or separate urea + MOP	100 kg/ha	N: 20, P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> : 0, K <sub>2</sub> O: 20	Apply around the base of Sweet potato (viazi vitamu) vines when soil is moist.
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### **Nutrient requirements**

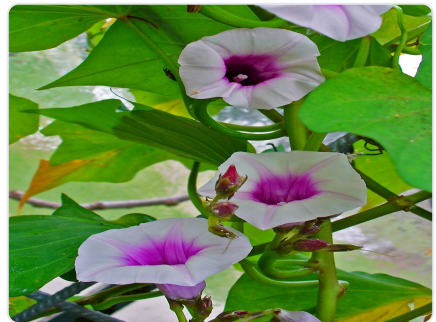
Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Basal	30	kg/ha
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Basal	30	kg/ha
K <sub>2</sub> O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	20	kg/ha
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
K <sub>2</sub> O	Topdress_early	20	kg/ha
N	Basal	30	kg/ha
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Basal	30	kg/ha
K <sub>2</sub> O	Basal	60	kg/ha
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<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>
K?O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_early	20	kg/ha
N	Basal	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_early	20	kg/ha
N	Basal	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	60	kg/ha
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### Field images



### Varieties

<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Maturity (days)</u>	<u>Traits</u>
Orange-fleshed Sweet potato	KE	120	High vitamin A, good for children and families; medium yield but important nutrition.
White-fleshed high-yielding type	TZ	150	High root yield, popular for boiling and frying.
Local viazi vitamu landrace	KE	150	Traditional taste and texture; adapted to local conditions.

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### **Fertilizer recommendations**

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Basal	NPK 17-17-17 or 15-15-15	150	Used on poor soils to boost early Sweet potato (viazi vitamu) growth.
Topdress (N+K)	Urea + MOP or K-rich NPK	100	Apply early in the season and avoid late heavy nitrogen.
Organic	Farmyard manure or compost	5000	Improves soil structure and moisture holding; apply well-rotted manure before ridging.
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## **Pests and diseases**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Sweet potato weevil	pest	Small holes and tunnels in Sweet potato (viazi vitamu) roots, bitter taste and corky brown patches inside.	Use clean planting material, practice crop rotation, earth up ridges well to cover cracks and harvest on time.
Viral diseases (SPVD complex)	disease	Stunted plants, yellow or purple mosaic patterns, distorted leaves and poor root formation.	Use virus-free vines, remove and destroy very sick plants and avoid taking cuttings from infected fields.
Caterpillars and leaf feeders	pest	Chewed leaves and defoliation of Sweet potato (viazi vitamu) vines.	Handpick where possible and support natural enemies; spray only when defoliation is severe.
Alternaria and leaf spots	disease	Dark spots on leaves, sometimes with yellow halos, leading to early leaf drop.	Use tolerant varieties, improve air movement and rotate with non-root crops.
Root rots in poorly drained soils	disease	Rotted, soft Sweet potato (viazi vitamu) roots and stunted vines in wet patches.	Use raised ridges, improve drainage and avoid waterlogging.
Storage rots	disease	Soft, mouldy roots in store, bad smell and discolouration.	Avoid injuries at harvest, cure roots, keep storage dry, cool and well ventilated and remove rotten roots quickly.
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Storage rots	disease	Soft, mouldy roots in store, bad smell and discolouration.	Avoid injuries at harvest, cure roots, keep storage dry, cool and well ventilated and remove rotten roots quickly.
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## Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Smallholder rainfed (low input)	8	5	12	Local Sweet potato (viazi vitamu) varieties, little fertilizer and moderate weeding.
Smallholder rainfed (improved management)	18	12	25	Improved varieties, healthy vines, good spacing, timely weeding and some manure or fertilizer.
High input / good management	25	20	35	Fertile soils, quality planting material, irrigation or reliable rains and strong pest and disease control.
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### Season calendars

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
KE	Western and lake Sweet potato (viazi vitamu) belt (long rains)	Mar–Apr	Jul–Oct
KE	Eastern and coastal zones (short rains)	Oct–Nov	Feb–May
TZ	Lake zone and coastal belt	Nov–Dec	Mar–Jun
KE	Western and lake Sweet potato (viazi vitamu) belt (long rains)	Mar–Apr	Jul–Oct
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### **Region suitability**

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Eastern and coastal lowlands	High
KE	Very cool highland zones with frequent frost	Low
KE	Western and lake region Sweet potato (viazi vitamu) belt	High

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
TZ	Lake zone and coastal belt	High
UG	Lake Victoria basin and mid-altitude areas	High

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Source: **FarmLens Ltd** - [farmlens.africa](http://farmlens.africa) and [app.farmlens.africa](http://app.farmlens.africa). Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya. This guide was generated from the FarmLens database.