

FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

Yam

Dioscorea spp.

Family: Dioscoreaceae

Categories

Roots & Tubers

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Quick stats

Family	Dioscoreaceae
Typical harvest	18.7 t/ha
Varieties	48
Pests and diseases	96
Seasons	48

Crop profile

Growth habit	climber
Days to harvest	300
Main uses	Boiled, pounded or fried tubers for main meals, flour and animal feed from peelings and small tubers.
Pollination	insect
Origin and where it grows	Yam (nga'ta) is grown in warm, humid and sub-humid areas, often on mounds or ridges, as a traditional root crop and food reserve.

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	25 - 30 °C
Rainfall	1200 - 1600 mm/yr
Altitude	0 - 1200 m
Best pH	5.8 - 6.5
Soil type	Deep, loose, well-drained sandy loam or loam. Yam (nga'ta) forms straight, large tubers in friable soils and deep mounds.
Row spacing	120 cm
Plant spacing	100 cm
Planting depth	10 cm
Seed rate	2000 kg/ha

Simple notes for farmers

About the crop: This crop has a growth habit described as "climber". Harvest typically starts about 300 days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for boiled, pounded or fried tubers for main meals, flour and animal feed from peelings and small tubers..

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

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Basal at planting	0	NPK 17-17-17 or 15-15-15	200 kg/ha	N: 34, P?O?: 34, K?O: 34	Mix into the top of mounds or ridges before placing Yam (nga'ta) seed pieces.
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2	Early topdress	50	Urea 46% N + MOP (muriate of potash)	150 kg/ha combined	N: 30, P?O?: 0, K?O: 40	Apply around Yam (nga'ta) mounds when vines start to climb; cover lightly with soil.
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Nutrient requirements

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P ₂ O ₅	Basal	40	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Basal	80	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	30	kg/ha
P ₂ O ₅	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha

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P?O?	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha

Field images



Varieties

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits
White yam type	KE	300	White flesh, good boiling quality and traditional taste.
Yellow yam type	TZ	300	Yellow flesh with pleasant flavour and softer texture.
Local nga'ta landrace	KE	330	Traditional Yam (nga'ta) variety adapted to local conditions; moderate yield.
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Fertilizer recommendations

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Basal	NPK 17-17-17 or 15-15-15	200	Provides a balanced start for Yam (nga'ta) in poorer soils.

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Topdress (N+K)	Urea + MOP	150	Supports vine growth and tuber bulking when applied early.
Organic	Well-rotted farmyard manure or compost	8000	Apply in planting mounds before placing Yam (nga'ta) seed pieces to improve soil structure and moisture.
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Pests and diseases

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Yam beetles and tuber borers	pest	Holes and tunnels in Yam (nga'ta) tubers, chewed surfaces and entry points that later rot.	Rotate fields, destroy old yam pieces after harvest and, where available, use traps or targeted soil treatments.
Nematodes (root-knot and lesion)	pest	Knobbly, misshapen tubers and stunted plants with poor vines.	Use clean planting material, rotate with cereals and avoid continuous yam in the same spot.
Scale insects and mealybugs on vines	pest	Small bumps or cottony masses on Yam (nga'ta) stems and leaves, sticky honeydew and sooty mould.	Remove heavily infested vines and encourage natural enemies; use soft insecticides if needed.
Anthracnose and leaf spots	disease	Dark, sunken spots on leaves and stems, leaf drop and reduced tuber yield.	Use healthy planting material, provide good air flow with proper spacing and stakes, and rotate crops.
Yam rots (soft and dry rots)	disease	Soft, watery or dry, corky rots in stored or field Yam (nga'ta) tubers, often starting at wounds.	Avoid tuber injuries, cure tubers after harvest in shade and store on clean, raised platforms.
Rodents and other animals	pest	Partially eaten tubers and disturbed mounds.	Use traps, simple fencing and community control where damage is high.
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Nematodes (root-knot and lesion)	pest	Knobbly, misshapen tubers and stunted plants with poor vines.	Use clean planting material, rotate with cereals and avoid continuous yam in the same spot.
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Anthracnose and leaf spots	disease	Dark, sunken spots on leaves and stems, leaf drop and reduced tuber yield.	Use healthy planting material, provide good air flow with proper spacing and stakes, and rotate crops.
Yam rots (soft and dry rots)	disease	Soft, watery or dry, corky rots in stored or field Yam (nga'ta) tubers, often starting at wounds.	Avoid tuber injuries, cure tubers after harvest in shade and store on clean, raised platforms.
Rodents and other animals	pest	Partially eaten tubers and disturbed mounds.	Use traps, simple fencing and community control where damage is high.
Yam beetles and tuber borers	pest	Holes and tunnels in Yam (nga'ta) tubers, chewed surfaces and entry points that later rot.	Rotate fields, destroy old yam pieces after harvest and, where available, use traps or targeted soil treatments.
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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	Traditional Yam (nga'ta) varieties, few or no fertilizers and simple mounds.
Smallholder rainfed (improved management)	18	12	25	Good seed pieces, well-made mounds, manure or fertilizer and good weed control.
High input / good management	30	20	35	Fertile soils, improved Yam (nga'ta) types, staking, balanced fertilizer 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	Coastal and mid-altitude yam (nga'ta) zones (long rains)	Mar–Apr	Dec–Feb (following season)
KE	Western and lake humid zones	Mar–Apr	Dec–Jan
TZ	Coastal and southern humid belts	Nov–Dec	Aug–Oct (following year)
KE	Coastal and mid-altitude yam (nga'ta) zones (long rains)	Mar–Apr	Dec–Feb (following season)
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Region suitability

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Coastal and low to mid-altitude humid zones	High
KE	Very dry, shallow or stony soils	Low
KE	Western and lake basin with deep soils	High
TZ	Coastal and southern yam (nga'ta) areas	High
UG	Humid mid-altitude zones with deep soils	Medium

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