FarmLens Ltd

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

Crop details

Tomato

Solanum lycopersicum

Family: Solanaceae

Categories

Vegetables

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Quick stats

Family	Solanaceae
Typical harvest	36.3 t/ha
Varieties	48
Pests and diseases	98
Seasons	64

Crop profile

Growth habit	annual
Days to harvest	110
Main uses	Fresh market (sliced, salads, cooking), sauces, paste, juice and dried tomato pieces.
Pollination	self
Origin and where it grows	Tomato (nyanya) is widely grown in warm to moderately cool areas in East Africa under rainfed and irrigation, especially around towns and irrigation schemes.

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	18 - 27 °C
Rainfall	500 - 800 mm/yr
Altitude	0 - 1800 m
Best pH	6 - 7
Soil type	Well-drained loam; high OM
Row spacing	90 cm
Plant spacing	45 cm
Planting depth	1 cm
Seed rate	0.4 kg/ha
Nursery days	28

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 fresh market (sliced, salads, cooking), sauces, paste, juice and dried tomato pieces..

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

Where it grows: Tomato (nyanya) is widely grown in warm to moderately cool areas in East Africa under rainfed and irrigation, especially around towns and irrigation schemes.. Grouped under: Vegetables.

Best climate: 18 - 27 °C; 500 - 800 mm/yr; up to about 1800 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 6 - 7; well-drained loam; high om.

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

Planting	Harden seedlings; stake/trellis indeterminates.
Transplanting	Water nursery before lifting seedlings. Transplant with a small ball of soil around roots and firm the soil gently around each plant.
Irrigation	Uniform moisture; avoid blossom-end rot via consistent watering.
Fertigation	Split N/K; reduce N after fruit set; add Ca if BER.
Pest scouting	Monitor Tuta absoluta/leaf miners, whiteflies, bacterial spots.
Pruning and training	Prune suckers (if indeterminate)
Harvest	Harvest at breaker for shipping, red-ripe for local.
Postharvest	Keep Tomato (nyanya) in shade, avoid overfilling crates and do not throw them. Store in a cool, aerated room; do not wet fruits before storage to reduce rots.

Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Basal	0	DAP 18-46-0	120 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: 55, K?O: N/A	Band away from roots
1	Basal	0	DAP 18-46-0	120 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: 55, K?O: N/A	Band away from roots
1	Basal at transplanting	0	NPK 17-17-17 or 15-15-15	250 kg/ha	N: 42, P?O?: 42, K?O: 42	Band 5–8 cm away from Tomato (nyanya) seedlings and cover with soil.
1	Basal at transplanting	0	NPK 17-17-17 or 15-15-15	250 kg/ha	N: 42, P?O?: 42, K?O: 42	Band 5–8 cm away from Tomato (nyanya) seedlings and cover with soil.
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2	Veg	21	CAN 26% N	100 kg/ha	N: 26, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
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2	Early topdress	21	CAN 26% N or urea (in cool conditions)	100 kg/ha	N: 26, P?O?: 0, K?O: 0	Apply along the rows of Tomato (nyanya) when soil is moist, then water or lightly cultivate.
2	Early topdress	21	CAN 26% N or urea (in cool conditions)	100 kg/ha	N: 26, P?O?: 0, K?O: 0	Apply along the rows of Tomato (nyanya) when soil is moist, then water or lightly cultivate.
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3	Fruit set	45	NPK 13-0-46 (KNO3)	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: 37	N/A
3	Fruit set	45	NPK 13-0-46 (KNO3)	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: 37	N/A
3	Fruiting topdress (N+K)	40	NPK high in K (e.g. 15-5-30) or urea + SOP/MOP	150 kg/ha	N: 30, P?O?: 0, K?O: 45	Focus on potassium for strong, firm fruits and better shelf life.
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Nutrient requirements

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Basal	60	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	60	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_fruiting	60	kg/ha
N	Basal	60	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	60	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
P?O?	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_fruiting	60	kg/ha
N	Basal	60	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	60	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_fruiting	60	kg/ha
N	Basal	60	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	60	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
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N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_fruiting	60	kg/ha
N	Basal	60	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	60	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_fruiting	60	kg/ha
N	Basal	60	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	60	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
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N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_fruiting	60	kg/ha
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P?O?	Basal	60	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
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P?O?	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
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P?O?	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
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Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_fruiting	60	kg/ha
N	Basal	60	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	60	kg/ha
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N	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_fruiting	60	kg/ha

Field images

Varieties

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits
Hybrid Tomato (nyanya) for open field	KE	100	High yield, firm fruits and good transport quality.
Roma / processing type	KE	95	Plum-shaped fruits, good for sauces and paste, relatively firm.
Local open-pollinated Tomato (nyanya)	KE	110	Good taste but lower yield and shorter shelf life than hybrids.
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Fertilizer recommendations

Stage	Product	Rate	Notes
Basal	NPK 17-17-17 or 15-15-15	250	Applied at transplanting to support early Tomato (nyanya) growth.
Topdress (N source)	CAN 26% N or urea	100	Use CAN where soils are more acidic or where conditions are dry.
Topdress (K source)	Sulfate of potash (SOP) or K-rich NPK	100	Supports fruit size, colour and firmness of Tomato (nyanya).
Organic	Well-rotted farmyard manure or compost	8000	Apply before transplanting to improve soil structure and water-holding capacity.
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Pests and diseases

Name	Type	Symptoms	Management
Tomato leaf miner (Tuta absoluta)	pest	Leaf mines, fruit damage	Pheromone traps; sanitation; registered insecticides
African bollworm / fruit worm	pest	Holes in fruits and flowers of Tomato (nyanya), with caterpillars and droppings inside.	Scout flowers and fruits regularly and control early with recommended products or biocontrol options.
Aphids and whiteflies	pest	Clusters of small insects on shoots and leaf undersides, sticky honeydew and sooty mould; can transmit viruses.	Use yellow sticky traps, remove heavily infested shoots, protect natural enemies and spray only when needed.
Early blight	disease	Concentric leaf/fruit lesions	Rotate; remove debris; protectants
Late blight	disease	Water-soaked patches on leaves, stems and fruits that turn brown/black rapidly, especially in cool, wet weather.	Plant in well-aerated fields, avoid dense canopies and follow a preventive fungicide spray programme during wet periods.
Bacterial wilt	disease	Sudden wilting of Tomato (nyanya) plants with green leaves, brown staining in stems and milky ooze from cut stems.	Avoid infested fields, rotate for several years with cereals and use tolerant rootstocks or varieties where available.
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Late blight	disease	Water-soaked patches on leaves, stems and fruits that turn brown/black rapidly, especially in cool, wet weather.	Plant in well-aerated fields, avoid dense canopies and follow a preventive fungicide spray programme during wet periods.

Name	Type	Symptoms	Management
Bacterial wilt	disease	Sudden wilting of Tomato (nyanya) plants with green leaves, brown staining in stems and milky ooze from cut stems.	Avoid infested fields, rotate for several years with cereals and use tolerant rootstocks or varieties where available.

Yields

System	Typical	Min	Max	Notes
Open field Tomato (nyanya), low input	10	5	15	Local seed or saved seed, little fertilizer and limited pest/disease control.
Open field, improved management	30	20	40	Hybrid seed, staking, recommended fertilizer and regular pest and disease control.
Irrigated / greenhouse Tomato (nyanya)	70	50	90	Protected or high-input systems with drip, fertigation and strong crop protection.
open-field rainfed	20	10	30	
open-field irrigated	35	20	60	
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Season calendars

Country	Region	Planting	Harvest
KE	Irrigated river valleys and schemes	All year (with good water)	2–3 months after transplanting, for several pickings
KE	Mid-altitude rainfed Tomato (nyanya) areas (long rains)	Mar–Apr	Jun–Aug

Country	Region	Planting	Harvest
KE	Short-rains Tomato (nyanya) season	Oct–Nov	Jan–Mar
TZ	Irrigated and peri-urban Tomato belts	Most months, depending on water and disease risk	2–3 months after transplanting over several weeks
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Region suitability

Country	Region	Suitability
KE	Irrigation schemes and river valleys	High
KE	Peri-urban vegetable belts around major towns	High
KE	Very hot, dry lowlands without irrigation	Low
TZ	Northern and central Tomato (nyanya) producing areas	High
UG	Mid-altitude vegetable-growing zones	High