

# FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

## Arrowroot

*Maranta arundinacea*

Family: Marantaceae

Categories

Roots & Tubers

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### Quick stats

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Family</b>             | Marantaceae |
| <b>Typical harvest</b>    | 15.0 t/ha   |
| <b>Varieties</b>          | 1           |
| <b>Pests and diseases</b> | 3           |
| <b>Seasons</b>            | 1           |

### Crop profile

|                                  |             |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Growth habit</b>              | perennial   |
| <b>Days to harvest</b>           | 240-360     |
| <b>Main uses</b>                 | Starch root |
| <b>Pollination</b>               | insect      |
| <b>Origin and where it grows</b> | Tropics     |

### Weather, soil and spacing

|                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Best temperature</b> | 22 - 30 °C        |
| <b>Rainfall</b>         | 1400 - 2200 mm/yr |
| <b>Altitude</b>         | 0 - 1600 m        |
| <b>Best pH</b>          | 5.5 - 6.8         |
| <b>Soil type</b>        | Deep loam; moist  |
| <b>Row spacing</b>      | 100 cm            |
| <b>Plant spacing</b>    | 60 cm             |
| <b>Planting depth</b>   | 6 cm              |
| <b>Seed rate</b>        | 1500 kg/ha        |

### Simple notes for farmers

**About the crop:** This crop is perennial; once planted it can keep producing for many years. Harvest typically starts about 240-360 days after planting.

**Main use:** Farmers mostly grow this crop for starch root.

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

**Where it grows:** Tropics. Grouped under: Roots & Tubers.

**Best climate:** 22 - 30 °C; 1400 - 2200 mm/yr; up to about 1600 m a.s.l.

**Soil:** Best at pH 5.5 - 6.8; deep loam; moist.

### Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <b><u>Planting</u></b>             | Plant healthy rhizome setts in well-prepared moist beds; maintain mulch to conserve moisture.     |
| <b><u>Transplanting</u></b>        | Not typically transplanted; use setts directly.   |
| <b><u>Irrigation</u></b>           | Requires consistent moisture; maintain evenly moist soil, avoid stagnation.                       |
| <b><u>Fertigation</u></b>          | If under drip, provide small N/K feedings during rapid growth.                                    |
| <b><u>Pest scouting</u></b>        | Scout for weevils and leaf spots; ensure sanitation and rotation.                                 |
| <b><u>Pruning and training</u></b> | Remove senescent leaves to reduce disease pressure.   |
| <b><u>Harvest</u></b>              | Harvest 8–12 months after planting when leaves begin to yellow; lift carefully to avoid breakage. |
| <b><u>Postharvest</u></b>          | Cure briefly in shade; store cool and dry; process promptly for starch.                           |

### **Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)**

| # | Stage    | DAP | Product      | Rate      | Targets (kg/ha)             | Notes                      |
|---|----------|-----|--------------|-----------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Basal    | 0   | NPK 12-24-12 | 150 kg/ha | N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A | N/A                        |
| 2 | Topdress | 60  | CAN 26% N    | 120 kg/ha | N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A | Irrigate after application |

### **Nutrient requirements**

| Nutrient | Stage    | Amount | Unit  |
|----------|----------|--------|-------|
| N        | Basal    | 40     | kg/ha |
| P?O?     | Basal    | 30     | kg/ha |
| K?O      | Basal    | 60     | kg/ha |
| N        | Topdress | 40     | kg/ha |

### **Field images**



### **Varieties**

| Name            | Country | Maturity (days) | Traits      |
|-----------------|---------|-----------------|-------------|
| Local Arrowroot | KE      | 300             | High starch |

### **Fertilizer recommendations**

| <u>Stage</u> | <u>Product</u> | <u>Rate</u> | <u>Notes</u>             |
|--------------|----------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Basal        | NPK 12-24-12   | 150         |                          |
| Topdress     | CAN 26% N      | 120         | Split if soils are light |

### **Pests and diseases**

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Type</u> | <u>Symptoms</u>     | <u>Management</u>   |
|-------------|-------------|---------------------|---|
| Weevils     | pest        | Root damage         | Clean seed pieces; sanitation   |
| Leaf spots  | disease     | Spots on foliage    | Improve airflow; avoid overhead irrigation; use protectants if needed |
| Root rots   | disease     | Wilting; root decay | Avoid waterlogging; rotate; use healthy planting material             |

### **Yields**

| <u>System</u> | <u>Typical</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>Max</u> | <u>Notes</u> |
|---------------|----------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| rainfed       | 15             | 8          | 25         |              |

### **Season calendars**

| <u>Country</u> | <u>Region</u>  | <u>Planting</u> | <u>Harvest</u> |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| KE             | Humid lowlands | Mar–Apr         | Oct–Jan        |

### **Region suitability**

| <u>Country</u> | <u>Region</u>            | <u>Suitability</u> |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| KE             | Humid lowlands           | High               |
| KE             | Riverine/irrigated zones | High               |
| KE             | Sub-humid zones          | Medium             |

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.