

# FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

## Eggplant

*Solanum melongena*

Family: Solanaceae

Categories

Vegetables

Generated: 2026-04-13 09:10

### Quick stats

<b>Family</b>	Solanaceae
<b>Typical harvest</b>	22.5 t/ha
<b>Varieties</b>	48
<b>Pests and diseases</b>	96
<b>Seasons</b>	48

### Crop profile

<b>Growth habit</b>	annual
<b>Days to harvest</b>	110
<b>Main uses</b>	Fruits cooked in stews, fried, grilled or mixed with other vegetables; also sold fresh in local markets.
<b>Pollination</b>	self
<b>Origin and where it grows</b>	Eggplant (biringanya) is grown in warm and medium-altitude areas of East Africa, especially around towns and irrigation schemes.

### Weather, soil and spacing

<b>Best temperature</b>	20 - 30 °C
<b>Rainfall</b>	700 - 1000 mm/yr
<b>Altitude</b>	0 - 2000 m
<b>Best pH</b>	6 - 6.8
<b>Soil type</b>	Deep, well-drained loam or sandy loam rich in organic matter so Eggplant (biringanya) can develop a strong root system.
<b>Row spacing</b>	75 cm
<b>Plant spacing</b>	50 cm
<b>Planting depth</b>	2 cm
<b>Seed rate</b>	0.5 kg/ha
<b>Nursery days</b>	35

### 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 fruits cooked in stews, fried, grilled or mixed with other vegetables; also sold fresh in local markets..

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

**Where it grows:** Eggplant (biringanya) is grown in warm and medium-altitude areas of East Africa, especially around towns and irrigation schemes.. Grouped under: Vegetables.

**Best climate:** 20 - 30 °C; 700 - 1000 mm/yr; up to about 2000 m a.s.l.

**Soil:** Best at pH 6 - 6.8; deep, well-drained loam or sandy loam rich in organic matter so eggplant (biringanya) can develop a strong root system..

### Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<b><u>Planting</u></b>	Sow Eggplant (biringanya) in a nursery bed or trays with fine soil and compost. Keep moist and protected from heavy rain. Transplant strong seedlings with 4–6 true leaves.
<b><u>Transplanting</u></b>	Harden seedlings for about a week before transplanting. Transplant in the late afternoon, firm soil around the root ball and water immediately.
<b><u>Irrigation</u></b>	Keep soil moist but not waterlogged. Pay special attention at flowering and early fruit filling. Avoid long dry spells and sudden heavy watering that can cause fruit cracking.
<b><u>Fertigation</u></b>	Under drip, start with more nitrogen early, then increase potassium as Eggplant (biringanya) starts flowering and fruiting. Split fertilizer into many small doses.
<b><u>Pest scouting</u></b>	Inspect twice a week for fruit borers, aphids, whiteflies, mites and wilting diseases. Check young shoots, flowers and small fruits carefully.
<b><u>Pruning and training</u></b>	Remove weak side shoots near the base and old diseased leaves. Light staking or tying may be needed to support heavily loaded plants.
<b><u>Harvest</u></b>	Harvest fruits when they are full-sized, glossy and firm but before seeds inside become hard. Pick regularly to encourage more fruiting.
<b><u>Postharvest</u></b>	Handle Eggplant (biringanya) gently, as fruits bruise easily. Keep in shade and avoid very cold storage which causes dull peel and pits.

### Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Basal at transplanting	0	NPK 17-17-17 or 15-15-15	150 kg/ha	N: 26, P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> : 26, K <sub>2</sub> O: 26	Apply around the planting holes of Eggplant (biringanya) and mix well with soil.
1	Basal at transplanting	0	NPK 17-17-17 or 15-15-15	150 kg/ha	N: 26, P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> : 26, K <sub>2</sub> O: 26	Apply around the planting holes of Eggplant (biringanya) and mix well with soil.
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#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
3	Fruiting topdress	40	NPK 12-12-24 or similar high-K mix	120 kg/ha	N: 14, P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> : 14, K <sub>2</sub> O: 29	Apply as fruits begin to form to support yield and quality.
3	Fruiting topdress	40	NPK 12-12-24 or similar high-K mix	120 kg/ha	N: 14, P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> : 14, K <sub>2</sub> O: 29	Apply as fruits begin to form to support yield and quality.
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### Nutrient requirements

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Basal	50	kg/ha
K <sub>2</sub> O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress_vegetative	40	kg/ha
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Topdress_vegetative	0	kg/ha
K <sub>2</sub> O	Topdress_vegetative	30	kg/ha
N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K <sub>2</sub> O	Topdress_fruiting	40	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Basal	50	kg/ha
K <sub>2</sub> O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress_vegetative	40	kg/ha
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Topdress_vegetative	0	kg/ha
K <sub>2</sub> O	Topdress_vegetative	30	kg/ha
N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K <sub>2</sub> O	Topdress_fruiting	40	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Basal	50	kg/ha
K <sub>2</sub> O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress_vegetative	40	kg/ha

<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>
P?O?	Topdress_vegetative	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_vegetative	30	kg/ha
N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_fruiting	40	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	50	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress_vegetative	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_vegetative	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_vegetative	30	kg/ha
N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_fruiting	40	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	50	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress_vegetative	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_vegetative	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_vegetative	30	kg/ha
N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_fruiting	40	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	50	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress_vegetative	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_vegetative	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_vegetative	30	kg/ha
N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha

<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_fruiting	40	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	50	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress_vegetative	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_vegetative	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_vegetative	30	kg/ha
N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_fruiting	40	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	50	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress_vegetative	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_vegetative	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_vegetative	30	kg/ha
N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_fruiting	40	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	50	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress_vegetative	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_vegetative	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_vegetative	30	kg/ha
N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_fruiting	40	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha

<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>
P?O?	Basal	50	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress_vegetative	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_vegetative	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_vegetative	30	kg/ha
N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_fruiting	40	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	50	kg/ha
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N	Topdress_vegetative	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_vegetative	0	kg/ha
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N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_fruiting	40	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	50	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress_vegetative	40	kg/ha

<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>
P?O?	Topdress_vegetative	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_vegetative	30	kg/ha
N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_fruiting	40	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	50	kg/ha
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K?O	Topdress_vegetative	30	kg/ha
N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_fruiting	40	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	50	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress_vegetative	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress_vegetative	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_vegetative	30	kg/ha
N	Topdress_fruiting	30	kg/ha

<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>
P?O?	Topdress_fruiting	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress_fruiting	40	kg/ha

### Field images



### Varieties

<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Maturity (days)</u>	<u>Traits</u>
Black Beauty-type Eggplant	KE	90	Dark purple fruits, good size and high market demand.
Long purple Eggplant (biringanya)	KE	85	Long, slim fruits, good for slicing and frying.
Local mixed Eggplant (biringanya) selections	TZ	95	Mixture of shapes and sizes, adapted to low and medium inputs.
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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	Gives a balanced start for Eggplant (biringanya) seedlings.
Topdress (vegetative)	CAN 26% N	100	Apply once plants are well established and growing strongly.
Topdress (fruiting)	NPK 12-12-24 or other high-K fertilizer	120	Supports fruit set and filling, improving yield and firmness.
Organic	Well-rotted manure or compost	8000	Incorporate before planting to improve soil structure and water holding.
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Organic	Well-rotted manure or compost	8000	Incorporate before planting to improve soil structure and water holding.
Basal	NPK 17-17-17 or 15-15-15	150	Gives a balanced start for Eggplant (biringanya) seedlings.
Topdress (vegetative)	CAN 26% N	100	Apply once plants are well established and growing strongly.
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## **Pests and diseases**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Eggplant fruit and shoot borer	pest	Bored holes and frass in shoots and fruits of Eggplant (biringanya); wilted shoots and damaged, deformed fruits.	Remove and destroy infested shoots and fruits, avoid leaving crop residues and use pheromone traps and recommended insecticides based on threshold.
Aphids	pest	Colonies of small insects on young shoots and leaves, causing curling, yellowing and sticky honeydew.	Encourage natural enemies, avoid excess nitrogen and use selective insecticides or biopesticides when populations are high.
Whiteflies	pest	Tiny white insects on underside of leaves causing yellowing and sooty mould.	Monitor regularly, remove heavily infested leaves and use recommended insecticides when necessary.
Spider mites	pest	Fine speckling, bronzing and webbing on Eggplant (biringanya) leaves during hot, dry periods.	Maintain some humidity, avoid dusty conditions and apply miticides/biopesticides if severe.
Bacterial wilt	disease	Sudden wilting of plants without yellowing, brown discoloration in stem when cut.	Use crop rotation, healthy seedlings, avoid poorly drained fields and remove wilted plants.
Early blight / leaf spots	disease	Brown spots with concentric rings on leaves, leading to defoliation and reduced yield.	Rotate crops, avoid overhead irrigation late in the day and use registered fungicides if needed.

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## Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Smallholder open-field Eggplant (biringanya)	15	10	20	Basic fertilizer use, simple pest control and regular picking.
Irrigated Eggplant with good management	30	20	40	Improved variety, drip irrigation, fertigation and good pest management.
Smallholder open-field Eggplant (biringanya)	15	10	20	Basic fertilizer use, simple pest control and regular picking.
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### **Season calendars**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Planting</b>	<b>Harvest</b>
KE	Medium-altitude and peri-urban Eggplant (biringanya) areas	Warm months during rains or under irrigation	First fruits from about 9–10 weeks after transplanting and continued pick
KE	Irrigated vegetable belts	Most of the year where temperatures stay warm	Long picking period with regular harvesting.
TZ	Coastal and lake basin Eggplant zones	Principal rainy seasons and under irrigation	Extended harvest over several months.
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TZ	Coastal and lake basin Eggplant zones	Principal rainy seasons and under irrigation	Extended harvest over several months.
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### **Region suitability**

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Irrigated smallholder Eggplant (biringanya) belts	High
KE	Medium-altitude and peri-urban vegetable zones	High
TZ	Coastal and lake basin vegetable areas	High
UG	Warm smallholder vegetable zones around towns	High

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