

FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

Swiss Chard

Beta vulgaris var. cicla

Family: Amaranthaceae

Categories

Vegetables

Generated: 2026-04-11 06:41

Quick stats

Family	Amaranthaceae
Typical harvest	12.0 t/ha
Varieties	16
Pests and diseases	19
Seasons	16

Crop profile

Growth habit	biennial
Days to harvest	60-120
Main uses	Leafy vegetable
Pollination	wind
Origin and where it grows	Temperate; widely grown

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	12 - 22 °C
Rainfall	500 - 800 mm/yr
Altitude	0 - 2600 m
Best pH	6.2 - 7
Soil type	Fertile loam
Row spacing	40 cm
Plant spacing	30 cm
Planting depth	1.5 cm
Seed rate	8 kg/ha

Simple notes for farmers

About the crop: This crop is biennial; it usually needs two seasons to complete its cycle. Harvest typically starts about 60-120 days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for leafy vegetable.

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

Where it grows: Temperate; widely grown. Grouped under: Vegetables.

Best climate: 12 - 22 °C; 500 - 800 mm/yr; up to about 2600 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 6.2 - 7; fertile loam.

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<u>Planting</u>	Direct seed in fine, firm seedbed or transplant sturdy plugs; thin for uniform plants.
<u>Transplanting</u>	Transplant at 3–4 true leaves if using plugs; avoid root damage.
<u>Irrigation</u>	Maintain consistent moisture; shallow frequent irrigation in light soils.
<u>Fertigation</u>	Split light N through early-mid growth; avoid excess late N to limit nitrate buildup.
<u>Pest scouting</u>	Scout for leaf miners and aphids; remove affected leaves; rotate fields.
<u>Pruning and training</u>	Not required.
<u>Harvest</u>	Harvest outer leaves regularly; avoid damaging growing point.
<u>Postharvest</u>	Hydro-cool or shade-cool; bundle loosely; store cool and humid; highly perishable at ambient.

Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

#	<u>Stage</u>	<u>DAP</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Targets (kg/ha)</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1	Basal	0	NPK 17-17-17	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Band or broadcast and incorporate lightly
1	Basal	0	NPK 17-17-17	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
1	Basal	0	NPK 17-17-17	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
1	Basal	0	NPK 17-17-17	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
1	Basal	0	NPK 17-17-17	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
1	Basal	0	NPK 17-17-17	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
1	Basal	0	NPK 17-17-17	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
1	Basal	0	NPK 17-17-17	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
1	Basal	0	NPK 17-17-17	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
1	Basal	0	NPK 17-17-17	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
1	Basal	0	NPK 17-17-17	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
1	Basal	0	NPK 17-17-17	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
1	Basal	0	NPK 17-17-17	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
1	Basal	0	NPK 17-17-17	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
1	Basal	0	NPK 17-17-17	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
1	Basal	0	NPK 17-17-17	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
1	Basal	0	NPK 17-17-17	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
2	Topdress	30	CAN 26% N	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Irrigate after application
2	Topdress	30	CAN 26% N	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
2	Topdress	30	CAN 26% N	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
2	Topdress	30	CAN 26% N	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
2	Topdress	30	CAN 26% N	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
2	Topdress	30	CAN 26% N	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
2	Topdress	30	CAN 26% N	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
2	Topdress	30	CAN 26% N	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
2	Topdress	30	CAN 26% N	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
2	Topdress	30	CAN 26% N	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
2	Topdress	30	CAN 26% N	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
2	Topdress	30	CAN 26% N	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
2	Topdress	30	CAN 26% N	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
2	Topdress	30	CAN 26% N	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
2	Topdress	30	CAN 26% N	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
2	Topdress	30	CAN 26% N	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
2	Topdress	30	CAN 26% N	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
2	Topdress	30	CAN 26% N	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
2	Topdress	30	CAN 26% N	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A

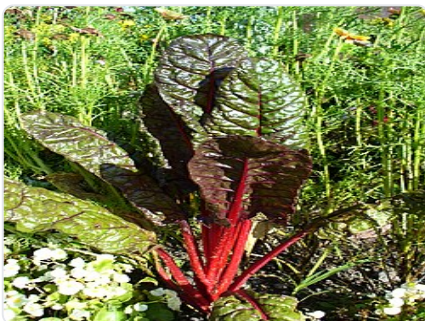
Nutrient requirements

<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress	20	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress	30	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress	30	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha

<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>
K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress	30	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress	30	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress	30	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress	30	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress	30	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress	30	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress	30	kg/ha

<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P ₂ O ₅	Basal	30	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress	30	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P ₂ O ₅	Basal	30	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress	30	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P ₂ O ₅	Basal	30	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress	30	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P ₂ O ₅	Basal	30	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress	30	kg/ha
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P ₂ O ₅	Basal	30	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress	30	kg/ha

Field images



Varieties

<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Maturity (days)</u>	<u>Traits</u>
Fordhook Giant	KE	70	Large leaves

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
KE	Highlands	Feb–Apr	Apr–Aug
KE	Highlands	Feb–Apr	Apr–Aug

Region suitability

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Highlands	High
TZ	Northern highlands	High
UG	Lake Victoria basin	High

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