

FarmLens Ltd

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Crop details

Tamarillo

Solanum betaceum

Family: Solanaceae

Categories

Fruits & Nuts

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Quick stats

Family	Solanaceae
Typical harvest	15.6 t/ha
Varieties	18
Pests and diseases	24
Seasons	19

Crop profile

Growth habit	perennial
Days to harvest	300-540
Main uses	Fruit (fresh/juice)
Pollination	insect
Origin and where it grows	Andean highlands

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	12 - 20 °C
Rainfall	900 - 1400 mm/yr
Altitude	1500 - 2800 m
Best pH	5.8 - 6.5
Soil type	Fertile, well-drained loam
Row spacing	300 cm
Plant spacing	250 cm
Planting depth	40 cm
Seed rate	kg/ha (check local recommendation)
Nursery days	90

Simple notes for farmers

About the crop: This crop is perennial; once planted it can keep producing for many years. Harvest typically starts about 300-540 days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for fruit (fresh/juice).

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

Where it grows: Andean highlands. Grouped under: Fruits & Nuts.

Best climate: 12 - 20 °C; 900 - 1400 mm/yr; up to about 2800 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 5.8 - 6.5; fertile, well-drained loam.

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
3	Pre-bloom balanced feed	270	NPK 17-17-17	200 g/plant	N: 10, P?O?: 10, K?O: 10	Light dose before flowering
4	Fruit fill K boost	330	Sulfate of potash (SOP)	200 g/plant	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: 15	Prefer SOP for fruit quality
5	Micronutrient foliar (opt.)	300	Ca/B/Zn foliar (as label)	0 —	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Apply in cool hours to support set/skin

Nutrient requirements

<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>
N	Basal	50	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Topdress	40	kg/ha
N	Establishment	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Establishment	20	kg/ha
K?O	Establishment	20	kg/ha
N	Vegetative	40	kg/ha
K?O	Vegetative	30	kg/ha
N	Flower_set	15	kg/ha
P?O?	Flower_set	20	kg/ha
K?O	Flower_set	30	kg/ha
N	Fruit_fill	10	kg/ha
K?O	Fruit_fill	40	kg/ha
N	Maintenance	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Maintenance	10	kg/ha
K?O	Maintenance	30	kg/ha
N	Basal	50	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Topdress	40	kg/ha
N	Basal	50	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha

<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>
K ₂ O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Topdress	40	kg/ha
N	Basal	50	kg/ha
P ₂ O ₅	Basal	30	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Topdress	40	kg/ha
N	Basal	50	kg/ha
P ₂ O ₅	Basal	30	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Topdress	40	kg/ha
N	Basal	50	kg/ha
P ₂ O ₅	Basal	30	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Topdress	40	kg/ha
N	Basal	50	kg/ha
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N	Basal	50	kg/ha
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P ₂ O ₅	Basal	30	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Topdress	40	kg/ha

Field images



Varieties

<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Maturity (days)</u>	<u>Traits</u>
Red Tamarillo	KE	420	Juice color; market preferred
Red tamarillo (local)	KE	360	Deep red fruit; good processing
Golden/yellow selection	UG	360	Yellow fruit; mild flavor
Red Tamarillo	KE	420	Juice color; market preferred
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Fertilizer recommendations

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Basal	Compost (well-decomposed)	4000	Mulch rings/basins
Vegetative	CAN 26% N	70	Split 2–3× per year on young plants
Fruit fill	Sulfate of potash (SOP)	60	Boost K for fruit quality

Pests and diseases

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Late blight	disease	Leaf/stem blight	Protectants; airflow
Aphids	pest	Leaf curl; honeydew; sooty mold; virus risk	Conserve predators; control ants; selective insecticides if needed
Whiteflies	pest	Leaf yellowing; honeydew; virus vector	Yellow traps; natural enemies; targeted controls
Red spider mites	pest	Stippling/bronzing in dry spells	Maintain humidity; miticides if severe
Fruit flies (Tephritidae)	pest	Stings; larval tunnels; fruit drop	Field sanitation; baiting; fruit bagging; timely harvest
Powdery mildew	disease	White powder on leaves/shoots	Open canopy; resistant selections; fungicides if persistent
Bacterial wilt (Ralstonia)	disease	Sudden wilting; brown vascular tissue	Avoid infested fields; rotate; hygiene; grafting on tolerant rootstocks where used
Anthracnose/fruit rots	disease	Sunken lesions; postharvest decay	Pruning for airflow; sanitation; careful handling; protectants in wet weather
Root-knot nematodes	pest	Root galls; stunting	Organic matter; solarization/cover crops; tolerant rootstocks if available
Late blight	disease	Leaf/stem blight	Protectants; airflow
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Yields

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
KE	Highlands	Mar–May / Oct–Nov	Multiple flushes/year
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Region suitability

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Frost-prone uplands	Low
KE	Highlands	High
KE	Highlands & cool mid-altitudes	High
KE	Hot lowlands (>28 °C mean)	Low
TZ	Northern highlands	High
UG	Southwest highlands	High

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