

FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

Proso Millet

Panicum miliaceum

Family: Poaceae

Categories

Cereals & Pseudocereals

Generated: 2026-04-11 08:28

Quick stats

Family	Poaceae
Typical harvest	1.3 t/ha
Varieties	2
Pests and diseases	3
Seasons	2

Crop profile

Growth habit	annual
Days to harvest	60-100
Main uses	Cereal grain
Pollination	wind
Origin and where it grows	Central Asia; dry areas

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	22 - 32 °C
Rainfall	300 - 500 mm/yr
Altitude	0 - 2000 m
Best pH	5.5 - 7
Soil type	Light soils
Row spacing	45 cm
Plant spacing	15 cm
Planting depth	2 cm
Seed rate	6 kg/ha

Simple notes for farmers

About the crop: This crop is annual; it grows and is harvested in one season. Harvest typically starts about 60-100 days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for cereal grain.

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

Where it grows: Central Asia; dry areas. Grouped under: Cereals & Pseudocereals.

Best climate: 22 - 32 °C; 300 - 500 mm/yr; up to about 2000 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 5.5 - 7; light soils.

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<u>Planting</u>	Direct-seed Proso Millet into a fine firm seedbed at onset of reliable rains.
<u>Transplanting</u>	Not transplanted.
<u>Irrigation</u>	Maintain moisture during establishment and grain filling where irrigation is used.
<u>Fertigation</u>	Split nitrogen between planting and early vegetative growth where moisture allows.
<u>Pest scouting</u>	Scout Proso Millet for aphids, armyworms, foliar diseases, and lodging risk.
<u>Pruning and training</u>	No pruning needed; keep weeds low during early establishment.
<u>Harvest</u>	Harvest Proso Millet when grains harden and heads dry down evenly.
<u>Postharvest</u>	Dry grain well before threshing and storage.

Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Basal	0	NPK 17-17-17	60 kg/ha	N: 18, P ₂ O ₅ : 46, K ₂ O: N/A	Starter fertilizer for Proso Millet establishment.
2	Topdress	25	Urea	35 kg/ha	N: 26, P ₂ O ₅ : N/A, K ₂ O: N/A	Topdress Proso Millet before rain or irrigation.

Nutrient requirements

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Basal	25	kg/ha
P ₂ O ₅	Basal	20	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Basal	20	kg/ha
N	Topdress	20	kg/ha

Field images



Varieties

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits
Local Proso	KE	85	Short duration
Short Season Proso	UG	85	Escapes terminal drought with rapid grain fill.

Fertilizer recommendations

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Basal	NPK 17-17-17	60	
Planting	DAP	100	Basal phosphorus for Proso Millet establishment.
Topdress	CAN	100	Nitrogen support for Proso Millet vegetative growth.

Pests and diseases

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Shoot fly	pest	Deadheart	Early sowing; seed treatment
Aphids	pest	Sap sucking on leaves and grain heads.	Scout early, preserve beneficial insects, and control when thresholds are exceeded.
Leaf rust	disease	Rust pustules on leaves reducing grain fill.	Use tolerant varieties, rotation, and timely disease control.

Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
rainfed smallholder	1.2	0.7	2	
Rainfed smallholder production	1.4	0.8	2.4	Typical grain yield under practical Proso Millet management.

Season calendars

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
KE	Semi-arid	Mar–Apr	Jun–Jul
KE	Highland Grain Zones	Mar-Apr	Jul-Aug

Region suitability

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Highland Grain Zones	Medium
KE	Semi-arid	High

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