

FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

Blackberry

Rubus fruticosus

Family: Rosaceae

Categories

Fruits & Nuts

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Quick stats

Family	Rosaceae
Typical harvest	7.0 t/ha
Varieties	1
Pests and diseases	2
Seasons	1

Crop profile

Growth habit	shrub
Days to harvest	240
Main uses	Fresh berries, juice, jam, and dessert use.
Pollination	insect
Origin and where it grows	Suitable for cool highland berry systems and peri-urban specialty farms.

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	12 - 24 °C
Rainfall	800 - 1600 mm/yr
Altitude	0 - 2600 m
Best pH	6 - 7
Soil type	Deep, fertile, well-drained soil with good organic matter.
Row spacing	500 cm
Plant spacing	500 cm
Planting depth	30 cm
Seed rate	kg/ha (check local recommendation)
Nursery days	180

Simple notes for farmers

About the crop: This crop has a growth habit described as "shrub". Harvest typically starts about 240 days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for fresh berries, juice, jam, and dessert use..

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

Where it grows: Suitable for cool highland berry systems and peri-urban specialty farms.. Grouped under: Fruits & Nuts.

Best climate: 12 - 24 °C; 800 - 1600 mm/yr; up to about 2600 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 6 - 7; deep, fertile, well-drained soil with good organic matter..

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<u>Planting</u>	Plant healthy Blackberry seedlings or grafted plants at onset of rains in prepared pits.
<u>Transplanting</u>	Handle Blackberry rootballs carefully and water well after planting.
<u>Irrigation</u>	Maintain steady moisture during establishment and fruit development of Blackberry.
<u>Fertigation</u>	Split nutrients through active growth and fruit development in Blackberry.
<u>Pest scouting</u>	Scout Blackberry regularly for fruit flies, scales, borers, and foliar diseases.
<u>Pruning and training</u>	Prune Blackberry to maintain canopy light, height, and sanitation.
<u>Harvest</u>	Harvest Blackberry at the right maturity stage for fresh-market quality.
<u>Postharvest</u>	Keep Blackberry shaded and cool after harvest to preserve market quality.

Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

<u>#</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>DAP</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Targets (kg/ha)</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1	Planting or season start	0	Well-rotted manure	8000 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Improve rooting environment for Blackberry.
2	Pre-fruiting	90	NPK 17-17-17	200 kg/ha	N: 34, P?O?: 34, K?O: 34	Balanced nutrient support for Blackberry.

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	Fruiting	40	kg/ha
K?O	Fruiting	50	kg/ha

Field images



Varieties

<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Maturity (days)</u>	<u>Traits</u>
Thornless Blackberry	KE	240	Fresh-market berry with easier handling.

Fertilizer recommendations

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Planting	Well-rotted manure	8000	Organic matter for Blackberry establishment.
Pre-fruiting	NPK 17-17-17	200	Balanced fertilizer ahead of major Blackberry crop load.

Pests and diseases

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Fruit flies	pest	Stings, larval feeding, and rotting fruits.	Field sanitation, trapping, and timely harvest.
Anthrachnose and fruit rots	disease	Lesions on flowers, leaves, or fruits reducing quality.	Prune for airflow, keep orchards clean, and protect during wet periods.

Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Managed orchard production	7	4.2	11.2	Typical orchard yield for Blackberry under practical management.

Season calendars

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
KE	Managed Orchard Zones	Mar-Apr or Oct-Nov	Depends on variety and agroecology

Region suitability

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Managed Orchard Zones	Medium

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