

# FarmLens Ltd

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Crop details

## Jatropa

*Jatropa curcas*

Family: Euphorbiaceae

Categories

Oil & Industrial

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### Quick stats

<u>Family</u>	Euphorbiaceae
<u>Typical harvest</u>	1.7 t/ha
<u>Varieties</u>	3
<u>Pests and diseases</u>	6
<u>Seasons</u>	5

### Crop profile

<u>Growth habit</u>	perennial
<u>Days to harvest</u>	365+
<u>Main uses</u>	Biofuel seed; hedgerow
<u>Pollination</u>	insect
<u>Origin and where it grows</u>	Tropical America; Africa/Asia

### Weather, soil and spacing

<u>Best temperature</u>	22 - 32 °C
<u>Rainfall</u>	600 - 900 mm/yr
<u>Altitude</u>	0 - 1600 m
<u>Best pH</u>	6 - 7.5
<u>Soil type</u>	Light to medium soils; drought tolerant
<u>Row spacing</u>	300 cm
<u>Plant spacing</u>	300 cm
<u>Planting depth</u>	30 cm
<u>Seed rate</u>	kg/ha (check local recommendation)
<u>Nursery days</u>	60

### Simple notes for farmers

**About the crop:** This crop is perennial; once planted it can keep producing for many years. Harvest typically starts about 365+ days after planting.

**Main use:** Farmers mostly grow this crop for biofuel seed; hedgerow.

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

**Where it grows:** Tropical America; Africa/Asia. Grouped under: Oil & Industrial.

**Best climate:** 22 - 32 °C; 600 - 900 mm/yr; up to about 1600 m a.s.l.

**Soil:** Best at pH 6 - 7.5; light to medium soils; drought tolerant.

### Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<b><u>Planting</u></b>	Use healthy seedlings or cuttings. Plant at onset of rains in pits (e.g., 45×45×45 cm) mixed with compost. Mulch and weed circles.
<b><u>Transplanting</u></b>	Do not damage taproot; set at collar height; firm soil.
<b><u>Irrigation</u></b>	Irrigate for establishment; thereafter minimal; water during extended droughts improves yield.
<b><u>Fertigation</u></b>	Low to moderate nutrient demand; split N in small doses early growth.
<b><u>Pest scouting</u></b>	Scout for leaf miners, mites, mealybugs/scale (sooty mold), and stem borers.
<b><u>Pruning and training</u></b>	Top plants at 45–60 cm to encourage branching; maintain 3–4 primary branches.
<b><u>Harvest</u></b>	Harvest when fruits yellow-brown; multiple pickings per season as racemes mature.
<b><u>Postharvest</u></b>	Dry seeds to ~7% moisture before storage/pressing; avoid contamination.

### **Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)**

#	<b><u>Stage</u></b>	<b><u>DAP</u></b>	<b><u>Product</u></b>	<b><u>Rate</u></b>	<b><u>Targets (kg/ha)</u></b>	<b><u>Notes</u></b>
1	Basal	0	NPK 15-15-15	60 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Mix in pit; avoid root burn
2	Topdress (establishment)	90	CAN 26% N	40 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Light ring application; water in
3	Maintenance (pre-rains)	365	NPK 15-9-20 (or urea+MOP)	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Annual, adjust to yield

### **Nutrient requirements**

<b><u>Nutrient</u></b>	<b><u>Stage</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>	<b><u>Unit</u></b>
N	Basal	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	20	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	30	kg/ha
N	Early_growth	20	kg/ha
K?O	Early_growth	10	kg/ha
N	Maintenance	20	kg/ha
K?O	Maintenance	20	kg/ha

### **Field images**



## Varieties

<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Maturity (days)</u>	<u>Traits</u>
Local Jatropha	KE	450	Drought hardy
Local landrace (seeded)	KE	720	Hardy; variable yield
Selected line (cuttings)	TZ	540	Earlier bearing; uniform canopy

## Fertilizer recommendations

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Basal	Compost/manure (well-decomposed)	2000	Mix in planting pits
Basal	NPK 17-17-17	80	Light dose at planting
Topdress	CAN 26% N	40	~3 months after planting
Maintenance	NPK high-K (e.g., 15-9-20) or Urea+MOP	80	Annual before rains

## Pests and diseases

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Leaf miner	pest	Mines in leaves	Sanitation; prune
Mites (Tetranychus spp.)	pest	Stippling; webbing in dry spells	Maintain plant vigor; selective acaricides if needed
Mealybugs/Scale (sooty mold)	pest	Honeydew; black mold on leaves/twigs	Control ants; prune; horticultural oils/soaps
Stem borers	pest	Boreholes; branch dieback	Prune and destroy infested shoots; wound protection
Powdery mildew	disease	White powder on leaves; defoliation	Improve airflow; sulfur or suitable fungicides
Mosaic/viral diseases	disease	Mottling; leaf distortion	Rogue infected plants; vector control; clean material

## Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
rainfed hedge	1	0.5	2	Seed yield

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
rainfed low-input	1	0.5	2	Seed yield; increases after year 3
managed orchard	3	2	5	Good selections, pruning & fertilization

### **Season calendars**

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
KE	Semi-arid	Mar–Apr / Oct–Nov	Jun–Jan (staggered)
KE	ASAL & sub-humid (long rains)	Mar–Apr	Multiple pickings after year 2–3
KE	ASAL & sub-humid (short rains)	Oct–Nov	Multiple pickings after year 2–3
UG	Northern & eastern dry zones	Mar–Apr	Staggered once mature
TZ	Central & northern semi-arid	Nov–Dec	Staggered once mature

### **Region suitability**

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	ASAL counties; lower mid-altitudes	High
KE	Cool highlands >1800 m (frost risk)	Low
KE	Poorly drained wetlands	Low
KE	Semi-arid	Medium
TZ	Central plateau; northern semi-arid	High
UG	Northern & eastern semi-arid	High

Source: **FarmLens Ltd** - [farmlens.africa](http://farmlens.africa) and [app.farmlens.africa](http://app.farmlens.africa). Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya. This guide was generated from the FarmLens database.