

# FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

## Lettuce

*Lactuca sativa*

Family: Asteraceae

Categories

Vegetables

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### Quick stats

<b>Family</b>	Asteraceae
<b>Typical harvest</b>	15.0 t/ha
<b>Varieties</b>	4
<b>Pests and diseases</b>	6
<b>Seasons</b>	4

### Crop profile

<b>Growth habit</b>	annual
<b>Days to harvest</b>	45-80
<b>Main uses</b>	Leafy vegetable
<b>Pollination</b>	self
<b>Origin and where it grows</b>	Temperate; widely grown

### Weather, soil and spacing

<b>Best temperature</b>	12 - 20 °C
<b>Rainfall</b>	400 - 700 mm/yr
<b>Altitude</b>	0 - 2600 m
<b>Best pH</b>	6.2 - 7
<b>Soil type</b>	Fertile, well-drained
<b>Row spacing</b>	40 cm
<b>Plant spacing</b>	30 cm
<b>Planting depth</b>	1 cm
<b>Seed rate</b>	2 kg/ha
<b>Nursery days</b>	25

### Simple notes for farmers

**About the crop:** This crop is annual; it grows and is harvested in one season. Harvest typically starts about 45-80 days after planting.

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

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

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

**Best climate:** 12 - 20 °C; 400 - 700 mm/yr; up to about 2600 m a.s.l.

**Soil:** Best at pH 6.2 - 7; fertile, well-drained.

### Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<b><u>Planting</u></b>	Prefer cool season. Use nursery or plug trays; transplant at 4–5 true leaves. Maintain even moisture.
<b><u>Transplanting</u></b>	Transplant late afternoon; avoid burying crown; firm soil around roots.
<b><u>Irrigation</u></b>	Shallow roots: frequent light irrigations; avoid wetting leaves late day to reduce disease.
<b><u>Fertigation</u></b>	Low-to-moderate N in small doses; include Ca/Mg if water/soil is low.
<b><u>Pest scouting</u></b>	Scout for aphids, leaf miners, cutworms, downy mildew, and tipburn (physiological).
<b><u>Pruning and training</u></b>	Not required; remove outer damaged leaves.
<b><u>Harvest</u></b>	Harvest at full size before bolting; cool immediately to maintain crispness.
<b><u>Postharvest</u></b>	Hydrocool/shade-cool; store 0–2 °C (leaf types) or 1–4 °C (heads) at high RH; avoid crushing.

### **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 17-17-17	60 kg/ha	N: 10, P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> : 10, K <sub>2</sub> O: 10	Band lightly 5 cm from row; incorporate
2	Topdress 1 (veg)	20	CAN 26% N	60 kg/ha	N: 16, P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> : N/A, K <sub>2</sub> O: N/A	Irrigate after application
3	Topdress 2 (pre-heading)	35	KNO <sub>3</sub> (optional)	30 kg/ha	N: N/A, P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> : N/A, K <sub>2</sub> O: 15	Boost K; improves quality and shelf life
4	Micronutrient foliar (opt.)	25	Trace mix (Ca, Mg, B) as label	0 —	N: N/A, P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> : N/A, K <sub>2</sub> O: N/A	Helps reduce tipburn under rapid growth

### **Nutrient requirements**

<b><u>Nutrient</u></b>	<b><u>Stage</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>	<b><u>Unit</u></b>
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Basal	25	kg/ha
K <sub>2</sub> O	Basal	30	kg/ha
N	Vegetative	30	kg/ha
K <sub>2</sub> O	Vegetative	20	kg/ha
N	Heading	20	kg/ha
K <sub>2</sub> O	Heading	20	kg/ha

### **Field images**



## Varieties

<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Maturity (days)</u>	<u>Traits</u>
Great Lakes	KE	55	Crisphead
Great Lakes (crisphead)	KE	55	Crisp heads; cool-season
Romaine (cos types)	KE	60	Upright heads; heat-tolerant selections
Butterhead/Bibb	UG	55	Tender leaves; cool conditions

## Fertilizer recommendations

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Basal	NPK 17-17-17	60	Incorporate before transplant
Topdress	CAN 26% N	60	Apply in moist soil; split if needed
Pre-heading	Potassium nitrate (KNO <sub>3</sub> )	30	Optional quality boost

## Pests and diseases

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Aphids	pest	Leaf curling	Natural enemies; soft sprays
Leaf miners	pest	Mines in leaves	Remove mined leaves; rotate chemistries; traps
Cutworms	pest	Cut seedlings at base	Baits; evening scouting; field sanitation
Downy mildew	disease	Yellow patches; downy growth below	Airflow; resistant types; protectants
Bottom rot/soft rot	disease	Base/butt rot in wet soils	Drainage; rotation; avoid overhead late
Tipburn (physiol.)	disorder	Brown leaf margins in heads	Even moisture; adequate Ca; moderate growth rate

## Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
open-field	12	8	20	Depends on type and season
protected/irrigated	18	12	25	Good fertility & temperature control

## Season calendars

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
KE	Highlands	Feb–Apr	Apr–Jun
KE	Highlands (cool season)	Jul–Aug	Sep–Nov
UG	Highlands & cool valleys	Mar–Apr	May–Jul
TZ	Northern highlands	Jun–Jul	Aug–Oct

### **Region suitability**

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Highlands	High
KE	Highlands & cool mid-altitudes	High
KE	Hot lowlands (>28 °C daytime)	Low
KE	Waterlogged sites	Low
TZ	Northern highlands	High
UG	Highland zones	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.