FarmLens Ltd

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Crop details

Tigernut

Cyperus esculentus

Family: Cyperaceae

Categories

Oil & Industrial

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Quick stats

Family	Cyperaceae
Typical harvest	8.0 t/ha
Varieties	1
Pests and diseases	2
Seasons	1

Crop profile

Growth habit	annual
Days to harvest	130
Main uses	Edible tubers for snacks, milk alternatives, and oil extraction.
Pollination	insect
Origin and where it grows	Grown in warm irrigated and rainfed lowland fields in East Africa.

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	18 - 30 °C
Rainfall	450 - 800 mm/yr
Altitude	800 - 2800 m
Best pH	6 - 7
Soil type	Fertile well-drained loam rich in organic matter.
Row spacing	30 cm
Plant spacing	10 cm
Planting depth	1.5 cm
Seed rate	5 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 130 days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for edible tubers for snacks, milk alternatives, and oil extraction..

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

Where it grows: Grown in warm irrigated and rainfed lowland fields in East Africa.. Grouped under: Oil & Industrial.

Best climate: 18 - 30 °C; 450 - 800 mm/yr; up to about 2800 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 6 - 7; fertile well-drained loam rich in organic matter..

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

Planting	Establish Tigernut in a fine weed-free seedbed and keep emergence moisture steady.
Transplanting	Direct seed or transplant depending on production system.
Irrigation	Maintain even soil moisture for steady Tigernut growth and quality.
Fertigation	Use split nitrogen and potassium for market-quality Tigernut.
Pest scouting	Scout Tigernut weekly for chewing pests, sap suckers, and foliar diseases.
Pruning and training	No pruning required unless sanitation or staking is needed.
Harvest	Harvest Tigernut when roots size up well before they become fibrous or pithy.
Postharvest	Cool and shade Tigernut promptly after harvest.

Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Basal	0	NPK 17-17-17	200 kg/ha	N: 34, P?O?: 34, K?O: 34	Basal fertilizer for Tigernut.
2	Topdress	21	CAN	100 kg/ha	N: 26, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Support active Tigernut vegetative growth.

Nutrient requirements

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Basal	35	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	35	kg/ha
N	Topdress	25	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress	20	kg/ha

Field images



Varieties

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits
Yellow Tigernut	TZ	130	Sweet tuber type for fresh and processing use.

Fertilizer recommendations

Stage	Product	Rate	Notes
Planting	Well-rotted manure	5000	Improve soil structure before Tigernut planting.
Vegetative growth	CAN	100	Split topdress for Tigernut production.

Pests and diseases

Name	Type	Symptoms	Management
Root maggots	pest	Tunneling and feeding damage on roots.	Rotate crops and maintain field sanitation.
Root cracking and rot	disease	Cracked or rotting roots under uneven moisture.	Maintain even moisture and use well-drained soils.

Yields

System	Typical	Min	Max	Notes
Managed fresh-market production	8	5.6	12	Typical marketable Tigernut yield under irrigated or well-managed conditions.

Season calendars

Country	Region	Planting	Harvest
KE	Highland Vegetable Zones	Mar-Apr or Oct-Nov	Year-round depending on irrigation

Region suitability

Country	Region	Suitability
KE	Highland Vegetable Zones	High