

FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

Vetch

Vicia sativa

Family: Fabaceae

Categories

Legumes & Pulses

Forages & Fodder

Generated: 2026-04-11 06:40

Quick stats

Family	Fabaceae
Typical harvest	4.8 t/ha
Varieties	1
Pests and diseases	2
Seasons	1

Crop profile

Growth habit	annual
Days to harvest	115
Main uses	Forage legume, hay crop, and nitrogen-fixing cover.
Pollination	insect
Origin and where it grows	Common in cool highland forage mixtures in East Africa.

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	10 - 22 °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	40 cm
Plant spacing	20 cm
Planting depth	1.5 cm
Seed rate	4 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 115 days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for forage legume, hay crop, and nitrogen-fixing cover..

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

Where it grows: Common in cool highland forage mixtures in East Africa.. Grouped under: Legumes & Pulses, Forages & Fodder.

Best climate: 10 - 22 °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)

<u>Planting</u>	Establish Vetch in a fine weed-free seedbed and keep emergence moisture steady.
<u>Transplanting</u>	Direct seed or transplant depending on production system.
<u>Irrigation</u>	Maintain even soil moisture for steady Vetch growth and quality.
<u>Fertigation</u>	Use split nitrogen and potassium for market-quality Vetch.
<u>Pest scouting</u>	Scout Vetch weekly for chewing pests, sap suckers, and foliar diseases.
<u>Pruning and training</u>	No pruning required unless sanitation or staking is needed.
<u>Harvest</u>	Harvest Vetch at market maturity for the intended use.
<u>Postharvest</u>	Cool and shade Vetch promptly after harvest.

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	Basal	0	NPK 17-17-17	200 kg/ha	N: 34, P ₂ O ₅ : 34, K ₂ O: 34	Basal fertilizer for Vetch.
2	Topdress	21	CAN	100 kg/ha	N: 26, P ₂ O ₅ : N/A, K ₂ O: N/A	Support active Vetch vegetative growth.

Nutrient requirements

<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>
N	Basal	35	kg/ha
P ₂ O ₅	Basal	30	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Basal	35	kg/ha
N	Topdress	25	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Topdress	20	kg/ha

Field images



Varieties

<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Maturity (days)</u>	<u>Traits</u>
Common Vetch	ET	115	High-protein forage and green-manure legume.

Fertilizer recommendations

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

Pests and diseases

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Aphids	pest	Leaf curling and sticky honeydew.	Scout frequently and use selective control when pressure builds.
Leaf spot complex	disease	Necrotic spotting and reduced leaf quality.	Improve airflow, rotate crops, and avoid prolonged leaf wetness.

Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Managed fresh-market production	4.8	3.4	7.2	Typical marketable Vetch yield under irrigated or well-managed conditions.

Season calendars

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

Region suitability

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Highland Vegetable Zones	High

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