

# FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

## Sunn Hemp

*Crotalaria juncea*

Family: Fabaceae

Categories

Legumes & Pulses

Oil & Industrial

Forages & Fodder

Generated: 2026-04-11 06:48

### Quick stats

<b>Family</b>	Fabaceae
<b>Typical harvest</b>	7.0 t/ha
<b>Varieties</b>	1
<b>Pests and diseases</b>	2
<b>Seasons</b>	1

### Crop profile

<b>Growth habit</b>	annual
<b>Days to harvest</b>	100
<b>Main uses</b>	Green manure, fiber, and short-cycle forage biomass.
<b>Pollination</b>	insect
<b>Origin and where it grows</b>	Used in East African rotations for soil health and biomass production.

### Weather, soil and spacing

<b>Best temperature</b>	20 - 32 °C
<b>Rainfall</b>	450 - 800 mm/yr
<b>Altitude</b>	800 - 2800 m
<b>Best pH</b>	6 - 7
<b>Soil type</b>	Fertile well-drained loam rich in organic matter.
<b>Row spacing</b>	40 cm
<b>Plant spacing</b>	20 cm
<b>Planting depth</b>	1.5 cm
<b>Seed rate</b>	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 100 days after planting.

**Main use:** Farmers mostly grow this crop for green manure, fiber, and short-cycle forage biomass..

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

**Where it grows:** Used in East African rotations for soil health and biomass production.. Grouped under: Legumes & Pulses, Oil & Industrial, Forages & Fodder.

**Best climate:** 20 - 32 °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)

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

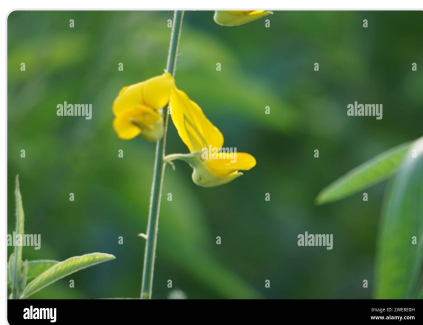
## Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

#	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 Sunn Hemp.
2	Topdress	21	CAN	100 kg/ha	N: 26, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Support active Sunn Hemp 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
Local Sunn Hemp	TZ	100	Rapid biomass and nitrogen-fixing cover.

## **Fertilizer recommendations**

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

## **Pests and diseases**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Type</u></b>	<b><u>Symptoms</u></b>	<b><u>Management</u></b>
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**

<b><u>System</u></b>	<b><u>Typical</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>Max</u></b>	<b><u>Notes</u></b>
Managed fresh-market production	7	4.9	10.5	Typical marketable Sunn Hemp yield under irrigated or well-managed conditions.

## **Season calendars**

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

## **Region suitability**

<b><u>Country</u></b>	<b><u>Region</u></b>	<b><u>Suitability</u></b>
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.