

# FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

## Stevia

*Stevia rebaudiana*

Family: Asteraceae

Categories

Oil & Industrial

Spices & Condiments

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### Quick stats

<b>Family</b>	Asteraceae
<b>Typical harvest</b>	3.2 t/ha
<b>Varieties</b>	1
<b>Pests and diseases</b>	2
<b>Seasons</b>	1

### Crop profile

<b>Growth habit</b>	perennial
<b>Days to harvest</b>	110
<b>Main uses</b>	Leaf sweetener crop for nutraceutical and food processing.
<b>Pollination</b>	insect
<b>Origin and where it grows</b>	Cultivated in selected East African contract-farming and high-value herb systems.

### Weather, soil and spacing

<b>Best temperature</b>	18 - 28 °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>	35 cm
<b>Plant spacing</b>	20 cm
<b>Planting depth</b>	1.5 cm
<b>Seed rate</b>	3 kg/ha

### Simple notes for farmers

**About the crop:** This crop is perennial; once planted it can keep producing for many years. Harvest typically starts about 110 days after planting.

**Main use:** Farmers mostly grow this crop for leaf sweetener crop for nutraceutical and food processing..

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

**Where it grows:** Cultivated in selected East African contract-farming and high-value herb systems.. Grouped under: Oil & Industrial, Spices & Condiments.

**Best climate:** 18 - 28 °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 Stevia 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 Stevia growth and quality.
<b><u>Fertigation</u></b>	Use split nitrogen and potassium for market-quality Stevia.
<b><u>Pest scouting</u></b>	Scout Stevia 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 Stevia in the cool hours and handle gently to preserve aroma.
<b><u>Postharvest</u></b>	Cool and shade Stevia 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 <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> : 34, K <sub>2</sub> O: 34	Basal fertilizer for Stevia.
2	Topdress	21	CAN	100 kg/ha	N: 26, P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> : N/A, K <sub>2</sub> O: N/A	Support active Stevia vegetative growth.

## Nutrient requirements

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

## Field images



## Varieties

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits
Morita II	KE	110	High stevioside leaf line for processing.

## Fertilizer recommendations

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

## Pests and diseases

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Aphids	pest	Crowding on tender shoots and reduced growth.	Use clean fields and selective control if needed.
Powdery mildew	disease	White powdery growth on leaves.	Improve airflow and avoid overcrowding.

## Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Managed fresh-market production	3.2	2.2	4.8	Typical marketable Stevia 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](http://farmlens.africa) and [app.farmlens.africa](http://app.farmlens.africa). Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya. This guide was generated from the FarmLens database.