

# FarmLens Ltd

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Crop details

## Loquat

*Eriobotrya japonica*

Family: Rosaceae

Categories

Fruits & Nuts

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### Quick stats

<b>Family</b>	Rosaceae
<b>Typical harvest</b>	13.3 t/ha
<b>Varieties</b>	4
<b>Pests and diseases</b>	7
<b>Seasons</b>	3

### Crop profile

<b>Growth habit</b>	perennial
<b>Days to harvest</b>	365+
<b>Main uses</b>	Fruit (fresh)
<b>Pollination</b>	insect
<b>Origin and where it grows</b>	E Asia; highlands/tropics

### Weather, soil and spacing

<b>Best temperature</b>	10 - 20 °C
<b>Rainfall</b>	700 - 1200 mm/yr
<b>Altitude</b>	1200 - 2600 m
<b>Best pH</b>	6 - 6.8
<b>Soil type</b>	Well-drained loam
<b>Row spacing</b>	600 cm
<b>Plant spacing</b>	600 cm
<b>Planting depth</b>	60 cm
<b>Seed rate</b>	kg/ha (check local recommendation)

### Simple notes for farmers

**About the crop:** This crop is perennial; once planted it can keep producing for many years. Harvest typically starts about 365+ days after planting.

**Main use:** Farmers mostly grow this crop for fruit (fresh).

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

**Where it grows:** E Asia; highlands/tropics. Grouped under: Fruits & Nuts.

**Best climate:** 10 - 20 °C; 700 - 1200 mm/yr; up to about 2600 m a.s.l.

**Soil:** Best at pH 6 - 6.8; well-drained loam.

### Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<b><u>Planting</u></b>	Plant at onset of rains or with irrigation. Use grafted cultivars on well-drained sites. Incorporate compost and a starter P source.
<b><u>Transplanting</u></b>	Stake young trees; mulch; protect from wind and frost during establishment.
<b><u>Irrigation</u></b>	Keep evenly moist, especially from flowering through fruit fill. Reduce stress to limit fruit drop and cracking.
<b><u>Fertigation</u></b>	Split N into several light feeds; supply K and Ca during fruiting; use leaf/soil analysis to refine.
<b><u>Pest scouting</u></b>	Scout for fruit flies, scales, aphids, scab, sooty mold; bag fruit or use bait/traps as needed.
<b><u>Pruning and training</u></b>	Open center/modified leader; thin crowded shoots after harvest to improve light and reduce disease.
<b><u>Harvest</u></b>	Harvest when fully colored (yellow-orange) and slightly soft. Handle gently to avoid bruising.
<b><u>Postharvest</u></b>	Cool quickly; store 5–10 °C at high RH; short shelf life—market promptly.

### **Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)**

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Basal	0	NPK 15-15-15	120 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: 10, K? O: N/A	Mix well into backfill; avoid root burn
2	Vegetative split N	60	CAN 26% N	150 g/tree	N: 10, P?O?: N/A, K? O: N/A	Apply in ring under canopy; water in
3	Pre-bloom feed	240	NPK 17-17-17	200 g/tree	N: 10, P?O?: 10, K?O: 10	Light, balanced dose before flowering
4	Fruit fill K boost	300	MOP (KCl) or SOP (preferred)	200 g/tree	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K? O: 15	SOP preferred on chloride-sensitive sites
5	Micronutrient foliar (opt.)	270	Ca/B/Zn foliar (as label)	0 —	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K? O: N/A	Apply during cool hours; improves set/skin

### **Nutrient requirements**

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Establishment	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Establishment	20	kg/ha
K?O	Establishment	20	kg/ha
N	Vegetative	40	kg/ha
K?O	Vegetative	30	kg/ha

<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>
N	Flower_set	15	kg/ha
P?O?	Flower_set	20	kg/ha
K?O	Flower_set	30	kg/ha
N	Fruit_fill	10	kg/ha
K?O	Fruit_fill	40	kg/ha
N	Maintenance	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Maintenance	10	kg/ha
K?O	Maintenance	30	kg/ha

### Field images



### Varieties

<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Maturity (days)</u>	<u>Traits</u>
Local Loquat	KE	900	Highland adapted
Mogi	KE	240	Early; sweet; medium fruit
Tanaka	KE	270	Large fruit; good flavor
Advance	TZ	260	Early to mid-season; productive

### Fertilizer recommendations

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Basal	Compost (well-decomposed)	5000	Applied in basins/mulch rings
Vegetative	CAN 26% N	80	Split 2–3 times per year
Fruit fill	Sulfate of potash (SOP)	60	Prefer SOP over MOP for fruit quality

### Pests and diseases

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Fruit moths	pest	Fruit damage	Bagging; pheromone traps

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Fruit flies (Tephritidae)	pest	Sting marks; larval tunnels; fruit drop	Protein baiting, field sanitation, fruit bagging, harvest on time
Scale insects	pest	Sooty mold from honeydew; weakening twigs	Prune for airflow; conserve predators; oil sprays
Aphids	pest	Curling leaves; honeydew/sooty mold	Control ants; soft insecticides if needed
Loquat scab	disease	Olive/brown lesions on fruit/leaves	Prune to open canopy; protectants during wet spells
Blossom blight	disease	Brown flowers; poor set in wet/cool periods	Airflow, canopy thinning; fungicide if persistent
Bird damage	pest	Pecked fruit; losses at maturity	Netting, scare tactics, selective harvest

## Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
orchard	12	6	20	
smallholder rainfed	10	6	15	Bearing orchards; 20–40 kg/tree
irrigated/intensive	18	12	25	Good cultivars and nutrition

## Season calendars

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
KE	Highlands	Mar–Apr	Feb–Apr
KE	Highlands (alt)	Oct–Nov	Jun–Aug
ET	Highland tropics	Jun–Jul	Feb–Apr

## Region suitability

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Frost-prone valleys (bloom)	Low
KE	Highlands	High
KE	Highlands & cool mid-altitudes	High
KE	Hot lowlands (>28 °C)	Low
TZ	Northern highlands	High
UG	Highland slopes	High

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