

# FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

## Brachiaria grass

*Urochloa/Brachiaria spp.*

Family: Poaceae

Categories

Forages & Fodder

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### Quick stats

<b>Family</b>	Poaceae
<b>Typical harvest</b>	25.3 t/ha
<b>Varieties</b>	3
<b>Pests and diseases</b>	4
<b>Seasons</b>	2

### Crop profile

<b>Growth habit</b>	perennial
<b>Days to harvest</b>	120-365+
<b>Main uses</b>	Forage; pasture/hay
<b>Pollination</b>	wind
<b>Origin and where it grows</b>	Africa; tropics

### Weather, soil and spacing

<b>Best temperature</b>	20 - 30 °C
<b>Rainfall</b>	800 - 1400 mm/yr
<b>Altitude</b>	0 - 1800 m
<b>Best pH</b>	5.5 - 6.5
<b>Soil type</b>	Well-drained; tolerates low fertility
<b>Row spacing</b>	75 cm
<b>Plant spacing</b>	50 cm
<b>Planting depth</b>	2 cm
<b>Seed rate</b>	8 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 120-365+ days after planting.

**Main use:** Farmers mostly grow this crop for forage; pasture/hay.

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

**Where it grows:** Africa; tropics. Grouped under: Forages & Fodder.

**Best climate:** 20 - 30 °C; 800 - 1400 mm/yr; up to about 1800 m a.s.l.

**Soil:** Best at pH 5.5 - 6.5; well-drained; tolerates low fertility.

### Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<b><u>Planting</u></b>	Plant at onset of rains. For splits, plant 1–2 tillers per station in moist soil; for seed, drill/shallow cover and firm soil. Control weeds during establishment.
<b><u>Transplanting</u></b>	Not typical; use vegetative splits or direct seeding.
<b><u>Irrigation</u></b>	Ensure moisture during establishment and after each cut; avoid waterlogging.
<b><u>Fertigation</u></b>	If irrigated, supply N in small doses after cuts to boost regrowth.
<b><u>Pest scouting</u></b>	Scout for spittlebugs and leaf spots; maintain field hygiene and balanced nutrition.
<b><u>Pruning and training</u></b>	Cut at 15–20 cm stubble to protect crowns and encourage tillering.
<b><u>Harvest</u></b>	First cut ~8–10 weeks after establishment; subsequent cuts every 4–6 weeks at 30–40 cm height or early boot stage.
<b><u>Postharvest</u></b>	For hay, wilt to ~85% DM before baling. For silage, chop 2–3 cm and ensile at ~30–35% DM.

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

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Basal	0	NPK 15-15-15	100 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K? O: N/A	Band or broadcast & incorporate lightly
2	After 1st cut	60	CAN 26% N	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K? O: N/A	Irrigate or apply on wet soil to reduce loss
3	After subsequent cuts	100	CAN 26% N + MOP	80 kg/ha + 40 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K? O: N/A	Adjust to biomass removal and soil tests

### **Nutrient requirements**

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	20	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress	40	kg/ha
N	Maintenance	40	kg/ha
K?O	Maintenance	30	kg/ha

### **Field images**



## Varieties

<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Maturity (days)</u>	<u>Traits</u>
Mulato II	KE	150	High quality forage
Mulato II (Urochloa hybrid)	KE	90	Tolerant to spittlebugs; high DM yield; good regrowth
Cayman (BR02/1794)	KE	90	High yield; drought tolerance; good quality

## Fertilizer recommendations

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Basal	DAP 18-46-0	60	Reduce if soil P is high
After cut	CAN 26% N	80	Apply after rains or light irrigation
After cut	MOP (KCl)	40	Support stand persistence and disease tolerance

## Pests and diseases

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Spittlebugs	pest	Foamy masses; yellowing	Resistant cultivars; grazing management
Spittlebugs (Aeneolamia/Zulia spp.)	pest	Foamy masses, yellowing, stunting	Use tolerant cultivars (e.g., Mulato II); maintain stand vigor; spot treatments if severe
Armyworms (sporadic)	pest	Leaf defoliation	Early detection; targeted control if thresholds exceeded
Leaf spot / blight	disease	Necrotic lesions reducing leaf area	Avoid dense shade; balanced K; timely cutting and residue management

## Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
pasture/cut	40	20	70	Fresh biomass/year
rained cut-and-carry	14	8	20	Annual biomass (DM) across multiple cuts
irrigated/intensive	22	15	30	Annual biomass (DM) with good fertility

## Season calendars

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
KE	High- & mid-altitudes (long rains)	Mar–Apr	First cut May–Jun; then 4–6 wk intervals
KE	High- & mid-altitudes (short rains)	Oct–Nov	First cut Dec–Jan; then 4–6 wk intervals

### **Region suitability**

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Dairy belts	High
KE	Highlands & mid-altitudes	High
KE	Waterlogged valleys	Low
TZ	Northern & Lake zones	High
UG	Central & Western	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.