

# FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

## Sudan grass

*Sorghum × drummondii* (Sudan grass)

Family: Poaceae

Categories

Forages & Fodder

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### Quick stats

<b>Family</b>	Poaceae
<b>Typical harvest</b>	26.7 t/ha
<b>Varieties</b>	2
<b>Pests and diseases</b>	7
<b>Seasons</b>	3

### Crop profile

<b>Growth habit</b>	annual
<b>Days to harvest</b>	60-120
<b>Main uses</b>	Forage; hay/green chop
<b>Pollination</b>	wind
<b>Origin and where it grows</b>	Africa; warm regions

### Weather, soil and spacing

<b>Best temperature</b>	24 - 32 °C
<b>Rainfall</b>	500 - 800 mm/yr
<b>Altitude</b>	0 - 1600 m
<b>Best pH</b>	6 - 7.5
<b>Soil type</b>	Well-drained; tolerates drought
<b>Row spacing</b>	50 cm
<b>Plant spacing</b>	10 cm
<b>Planting depth</b>	2.5 cm
<b>Seed rate</b>	15 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 60-120 days after planting.

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

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

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

**Best climate:** 24 - 32 °C; 500 - 800 mm/yr; up to about 1600 m a.s.l.

**Soil:** Best at pH 6 - 7.5; well-drained; tolerates drought.

### Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<b><u>Planting</u></b>	Sow into warm, moist seedbed after onset of rains or with irrigation; roll/firm for good contact.
<b><u>Transplanting</u></b>	Not transplanted.
<b><u>Irrigation</u></b>	Drought-tolerant but highest yields with timely moisture; avoid saturation.
<b><u>Fertigation</u></b>	Grasses respond to N; split N 2–3 times; ensure K and S for regrowth.
<b><u>Pest scouting</u></b>	Scout early for shoot fly/armyworms and leaf diseases; manage weeds aggressively in first 4–6 weeks.
<b><u>Pruning and training</u></b>	Not applicable; manage by cutting height and intervals.
<b><u>Harvest</u></b>	First cut at 45–60 DAS (50–70 cm height) or early boot; leave 10–15 cm stubble for regrowth.
<b><u>Postharvest</u></b>	For hay, wilt rapidly to safe moisture; for silage, chop at 30–35% DM; avoid nitrate/prussic acid risks.

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

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Basal	0	DAP 18-46-0	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Place below/aside seed to avoid burn
2	After first cut	45	Urea	80 kg/ha	N: 40, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Irrigate or apply before rain
3	After 1st cut	55	Urea 46% N + MOP (KCl)	80 kg/ha (urea) + 60 kg/ha MOP	N: 40, P?O?: N/A, K?O: 30	Broadcast evenly on moist soil

### **Nutrient requirements**

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	20	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	30	kg/ha
N	Topdress	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress1	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress1	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress1	30	kg/ha
N	After_cut	40	kg/ha
P?O?	After_cut	0	kg/ha
K?O	After_cut	30	kg/ha

### **Field images**



## Varieties

<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Maturity (days)</u>	<u>Traits</u>
Local Sudan Grass	KE	80	Fast regrowth
Piper type	TZ	75	Fine stems; good hay

## Fertilizer recommendations

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Basal	NPK 17-17-17	100	
Topdress	Urea 46% N (or CAN)	80	Split after emergence and after cuts
After cut	MOP (KCl)	60	Supports regrowth and stand persistence

## Pests and diseases

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Sorghum midge	pest	Poor seed set	Early planting; tolerant types
Armyworms/cutworms	pest	Defoliation; stand loss	Early scouting; baits/controls if thresholds exceeded
Shoot fly	pest	Deadhearts in seedlings	Timely sowing; seed treatment; replant gaps
Stem borers	pest	Tunneling; broken stems	Stubble management; rotations; biological controls
Leaf spot/rust	disease	Spots/pustules on leaves	Resistant lines; airflow; timely protectants if severe
Smut/ergot (sorghum)	disease	Black sori; sticky exudate	Clean seed; crop hygiene; rotation
Sorghum midge (in seed)	pest	Poor grain in seed production	Synchronize flowering; avoid volunteer hosts

## Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
cut-and-carry	30	15	50	Fresh biomass
rained forage	15	8	25	Fresh biomass per cut; 2–3 cuts possible (site-dependent)
irrigated forage	35	20	60	Cumulative fresh biomass across multiple cuts

## Season calendars

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
KE	Lowlands & mid-altitudes (long rains)	Mar–Apr	May–Sep
KE	Lowlands & mid-altitudes (short rains)	Oct–Nov	Dec–Apr
TZ	Central semi-arid (with showers/irrig.)	Dec–Jan	Feb–Jun

### **Region suitability**

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Cool highlands (>2000 m)	Low
KE	Lowlands & mid-altitudes	High
KE	Lowlands/Semi-arid	High
TZ	Central semi-arid (irrigated)	High
UG	Dry savanna	Medium

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.