

FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

Ryegrass

Lolium multiflorum / perenne

Family: Poaceae

Categories

Forages & Fodder

Generated: 2026-04-11 06:40

Quick stats

Family	Poaceae
Typical harvest	14.5 t/ha
Varieties	2
Pests and diseases	3
Seasons	1

Crop profile

Growth habit	annual
Days to harvest	90-180
Main uses	Forage; pasture; hay
Pollination	wind
Origin and where it grows	Temperate regions

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	10 - 20 °C
Rainfall	700 - 1000 mm/yr
Altitude	1200 - 2600 m
Best pH	6 - 6.8
Soil type	Fertile, well-drained loam
Row spacing	20 cm
Plant spacing	5 cm
Planting depth	1.5 cm
Seed rate	25 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 90-180 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: Temperate regions. Grouped under: Forages & Fodder.

Best climate: 10 - 20 °C; 700 - 1000 mm/yr; up to about 2600 m a.s.l.

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

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<u>Planting</u>	Direct-seed Ryegrass into a fine firm seedbed at onset of reliable rains.
<u>Transplanting</u>	Not transplanted.
<u>Irrigation</u>	Maintain moisture during establishment and grain filling where irrigation is used.
<u>Fertigation</u>	Split nitrogen between planting and early vegetative growth where moisture allows.
<u>Pest scouting</u>	Scout Ryegrass for aphids, armyworms, foliar diseases, and lodging risk.
<u>Pruning and training</u>	No pruning needed; keep weeds low during early establishment.
<u>Harvest</u>	Harvest Ryegrass when grains harden and heads dry down evenly.
<u>Postharvest</u>	Dry grain well before threshing and storage.

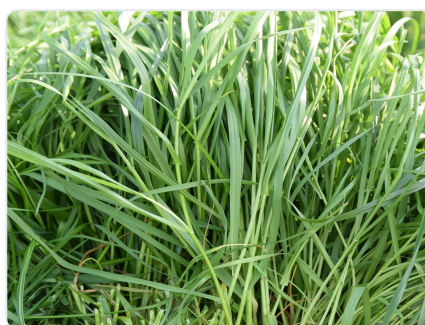
Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Basal	0	NPK 12-24-12	80 kg/ha	N: 18, P ₂ O ₅ : 46, K ₂ O: N/A	Starter fertilizer for Ryegrass establishment.
2	After first cut	45	CAN 26% N	80 kg/ha	N: 26, P ₂ O ₅ : N/A, K ₂ O: N/A	Topdress Ryegrass before rain or irrigation.

Nutrient requirements

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P ₂ O ₅	Basal	20	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress	40	kg/ha

Field images



Varieties

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits
Annual Ryegrass	KE	120	Highland forage
Italian Ryegrass	KE	95	Fast cool-season forage regrowth.

Fertilizer recommendations

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Planting	DAP	100	Basal phosphorus for Ryegrass establishment.
Topdress	CAN	100	Nitrogen support for Ryegrass vegetative growth.

Pests and diseases

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Rust	disease	Orange pustules	Grazing management; fungicide if needed
Aphids	pest	Sap sucking on leaves and grain heads.	Scout early, preserve beneficial insects, and control when thresholds are exceeded.
Leaf rust	disease	Rust pustules on leaves reducing grain fill.	Use tolerant varieties, rotation, and timely disease control.

Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
pasture/cut	20	12	35	Fresh biomass
Rainfed smallholder production	9	5.4	15.3	Typical grain yield under practical Ryegrass management.

Season calendars

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
KE	Highland Grain Zones	Mar-Apr	Jul-Aug

Region suitability

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Highland Grain Zones	Medium
KE	Highlands	High

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