

# FarmLens Ltd

Website: [farmlens.africa](http://farmlens.africa) | App: [app.farmlens.africa](http://app.farmlens.africa) | Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya



Crop details

## Asparagus

*Asparagus officinalis*

Family: Asparagaceae

Categories

Vegetables

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### Quick stats

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Family</b>             | Asparagaceae |
| <b>Typical harvest</b>    | 5.0 t/ha     |
| <b>Varieties</b>          | 2            |
| <b>Pests and diseases</b> | 2            |
| <b>Seasons</b>            | 2            |

### Crop profile

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Growth habit</b>              | perennial   |
| <b>Days to harvest</b>           | 240   |
| <b>Main uses</b>                 | Tender spears consumed fresh, steamed, grilled, or processed.                   |
| <b>Pollination</b>               | insect  |
| <b>Origin and where it grows</b> | Suitable for cool to warm dry highland areas with irrigation and good drainage. |

### Weather, soil and spacing

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Best temperature</b> | 18 - 28 °C  |
| <b>Rainfall</b>         | 500 - 700 mm/yr   |
| <b>Altitude</b>         | 600 - 2500 m  |
| <b>Best pH</b>          | 6.5 - 7.4   |
| <b>Soil type</b>        | Deep sandy loam to loam with excellent drainage and low compaction. |
| <b>Row spacing</b>      | 150 cm  |
| <b>Plant spacing</b>    | 35 cm   |
| <b>Planting depth</b>   | 20 cm   |
| <b>Seed rate</b>        | 4 kg/ha   |
| <b>Nursery days</b>     | 90  |

### Simple notes for farmers

**About the crop:** This crop is perennial; once planted it can keep producing for many years. Harvest typically starts about 240 days after planting.

**Main use:** Farmers mostly grow this crop for tender spears consumed fresh, steamed, grilled, or processed..

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

**Where it grows:** Suitable for cool to warm dry highland areas with irrigation and good drainage.. Grouped under: Vegetables.

**Best climate:** 18 - 28 °C; 500 - 700 mm/yr; up to about 2500 m a.s.l.

**Soil:** Best at pH 6.5 - 7.4; deep sandy loam to loam with excellent drainage and low compaction..

## Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <b><u>Planting</u></b>             | Establish from crowns or strong nursery seedlings in raised furrows enriched with manure.      |
| <b><u>Transplanting</u></b>        | Set crowns deep, spread roots well and cover gradually as shoots emerge.                       |
| <b><u>Irrigation</u></b>           | Irrigate consistently during establishment and spear flushes without saturating the root zone. |
| <b><u>Fertigation</u></b>          | Apply nitrogen after each flush and maintain potassium to support fern growth.                 |
| <b><u>Pest scouting</u></b>        | Inspect for cutworms, beetles, rust and Fusarium symptoms in crowns and ferns.                 |
| <b><u>Pruning and training</u></b> | Allow healthy fern growth after harvest to rebuild root reserves.                              |
| <b><u>Harvest</u></b>              | Cut spears at 18-22 cm while tips remain tight and before fibrous growth begins.               |
| <b><u>Postharvest</u></b>          | Hydrocool or chill quickly and keep bunches upright under cool storage.                        |

## Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

| # | Stage               | DAP | Product | Rate      | Targets (kg/ha)            | Notes                             |
|---|---------------------|-----|---------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Basal               | 0   | DAP     | 200 kg/ha | N: 36, P?O?: 92, K?O: N/A  | Place below and beside crowns.    |
| 2 | After harvest flush | 120 | CAN     | 150 kg/ha | N: 39, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A | Apply after spear cutting period. |

## Nutrient requirements

| Nutrient | Stage               | Amount | Unit  |
|----------|---------------------|--------|-------|
| N        | Basal               | 40     | kg/ha |
| P?O?     | Basal               | 50     | kg/ha |
| K?O      | Basal               | 80     | kg/ha |
| N        | After_harvest_flush | 50     | kg/ha |
| K?O      | After_harvest_flush | 40     | kg/ha |

## Field images



## Varieties

| Name            | Country | Maturity (days) | Traits                                 |
|-----------------|---------|-----------------|--|
| Mary Washington | KE      | 240             | Adapted open-pollinated standard type. |

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Country</u> | <u>Maturity (days)</u> | <u>Traits</u>                    |
|-------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| UC 157      | UG             | 220                    | Productive green spear cultivar. |

### **Fertilizer recommendations**

| <u>Stage</u>  | <u>Product</u>     | <u>Rate</u> | <u>Notes</u>                             |
|---------------|--------------------|-------------|--|
| Basal         | Well-rotted manure | 10000       | Deeply incorporate into beds or furrows. |
| Fern regrowth | CAN                | 150         | Topdress after harvest flush.            |

### **Pests and diseases**

| <u>Name</u>    | <u>Type</u> | <u>Symptoms</u>  | <u>Management</u>   |
|----------------|-------------|--|---|
| Cutworms       | pest        | Young shoots cut near the soil surface.                | Keep fields clean, monitor at dusk and protect new plantings where needed.  |
| Asparagus rust | disease     | Orange-brown pustules on ferns leading to weak crowns. | Use clean fields, improve airflow and remove heavily infected fern residue. |

### **Yields**

| <u>System</u>               | <u>Typical</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>Max</u> | <u>Notes</u>   |
|-----------------------------|----------------|------------|------------|--|
| Established irrigated field | 5              | 3          | 8          | Marketable spear yield after full stand establishment. |

### **Season calendars**

| <u>Country</u> | <u>Region</u>      | <u>Planting</u>    | <u>Harvest</u>                         |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|
| KE             | Upper Midlands     | Mar-Apr or Sep-Oct | From year 2 onward in cool months      |
| TZ             | Northern Highlands | Nov-Dec            | From year 2 onward after establishment |

### **Region suitability**

| <u>Country</u> | <u>Region</u>  | <u>Suitability</u> |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| KE             | Upper Midlands | 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.