FarmLens Ltd

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

Crop details

Barley

Hordeum vulgare

Family: Poaceae

Categories

Cereals & Pseudocereals

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Quick stats

Family	Poaceae
Typical harvest	2.9 t/ha
Varieties	2
Pests and diseases	2
Seasons	2

Crop profile

Growth habit	annual
Days to harvest	120
Main uses	Grain for food, feed, malting and straw for livestock bedding or feed.
Pollination	self
Origin and where it grows	Common in cool highland zones and some irrigated cereal systems in East Africa.

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	12 - 24 °C
Rainfall	350 - 650 mm/yr
Altitude	200 - 3500 m
Best pH	6.5 - 7.5
Soil type	Wide range; best in well-drained soils
Row spacing	20 cm
Plant spacing	5 cm
Planting depth	4 cm
Seed rate	100 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 120 days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for grain for food, feed, malting and straw for livestock bedding or feed..

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

Where it grows: Common in cool highland zones and some irrigated cereal systems in East Africa.. Grouped under: Cereals & Pseudocereals.

Best climate: 12 - 24 °C; 350 - 650 mm/yr; up to about 3500 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 6.5 - 7.5; fertile, well-drained soils.

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

Planting	Direct-seed into a fine seedbed at onset of reliable rains or under irrigation.
Transplanting	Not transplanted.
Irrigation	If irrigated, maintain moisture at establishment, tillering and grain filling.
Fertigation	Split nitrogen between planting and tillering where rainfall or irrigation is adequate.
Pest scouting	Monitor for aphids, armyworms, rusts and lodging risk in dense stands.
Pruning and training	No pruning required; manage weeds early and avoid excessive late nitrogen.
Harvest	Harvest when heads are dry, grain is hard and moisture is low enough for safe threshing.
Postharvest	Dry to safe moisture, thresh cleanly and store in dry insect-free conditions.

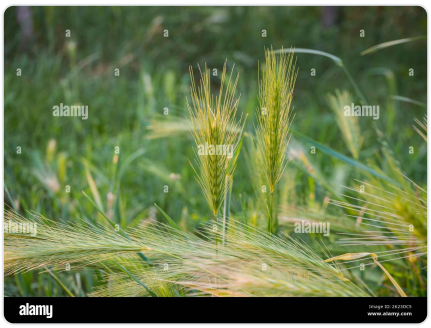
Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

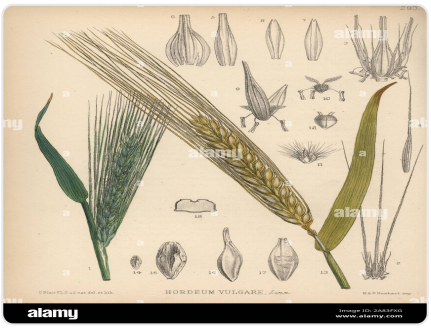
#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Basal	0	DAP	100 kg/ha	N: 18, P?O?: 46, K?O: N/A	Drill or band at planting.
2	Tillering	30	CAN	100 kg/ha	N: 26, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Apply before rain or irrigate lightly after topdressing.

Nutrient requirements

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Basal	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	20	kg/ha
N	Tillering	30	kg/ha

Field images





Varieties

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits
Nguzo	KE	120	Adapted malting type for Kenyan highlands.
Sabini	TZ	115	Cool-season grain type.

Fertilizer recommendations

Stage	Product	Rate	Notes
Planting	DAP	100	Use with clean seed and firm seedbed.
Tillering	CAN	100	Avoid late excessive nitrogen on malting barley.

Pests and diseases

Name	Type	Symptoms	Management
Aphids	pest	Sap sucking on leaves and heads, sometimes with virus spread.	Scout early and preserve natural enemies; intervene where thresholds are exceeded.
Leaf rust	disease	Orange-brown pustules on leaves reducing grain fill.	Use tolerant varieties, balanced nutrition and fungicide when needed.

Yields

System	Typical	Min	Max	Notes
Rainfed smallholder highland production	2	1.2	3	Typical food or feed grain production under moderate management.
Improved malting barley production	3.8	2.5	5	Highland production with improved seed and balanced fertility.

Season calendars

Country	Region	Planting	Harvest
KE	Rift Valley Highlands	Mar-Apr	Jul-Aug
ET	Central Highlands	Jun-Jul	Oct-Nov

Region suitability

Country	Region	Suitability
KE	Rift Valley Highlands	High